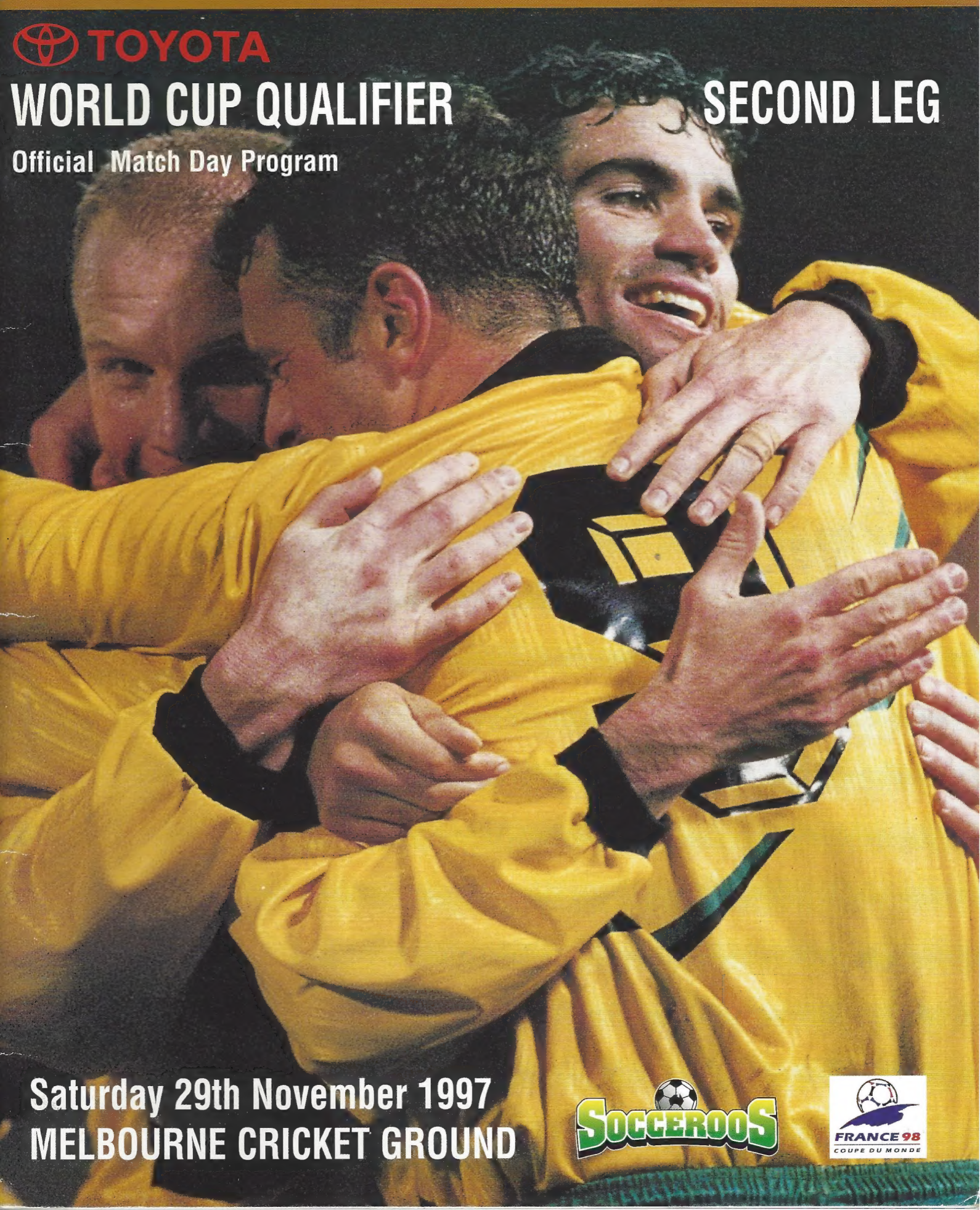
# Australia v Iran



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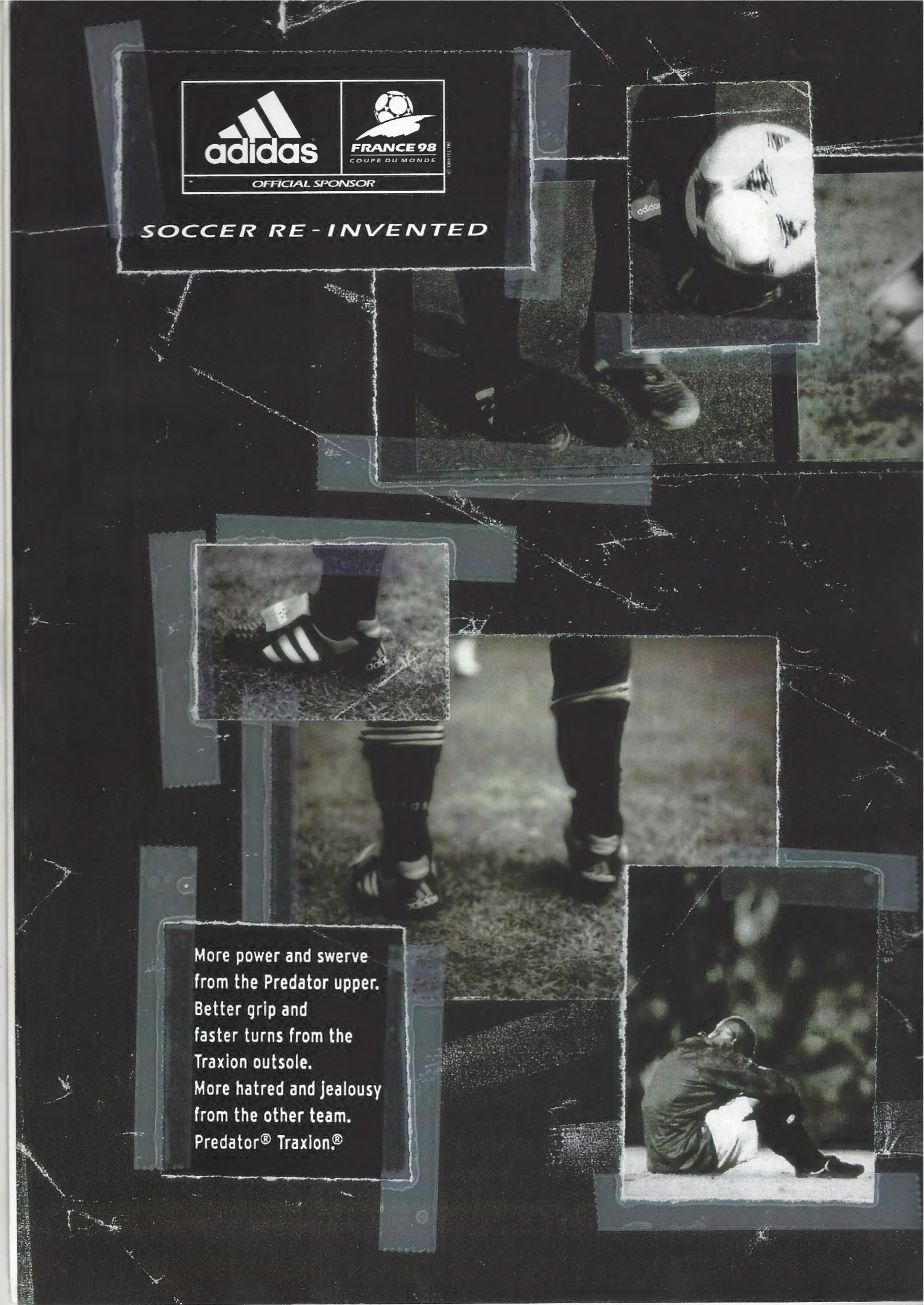
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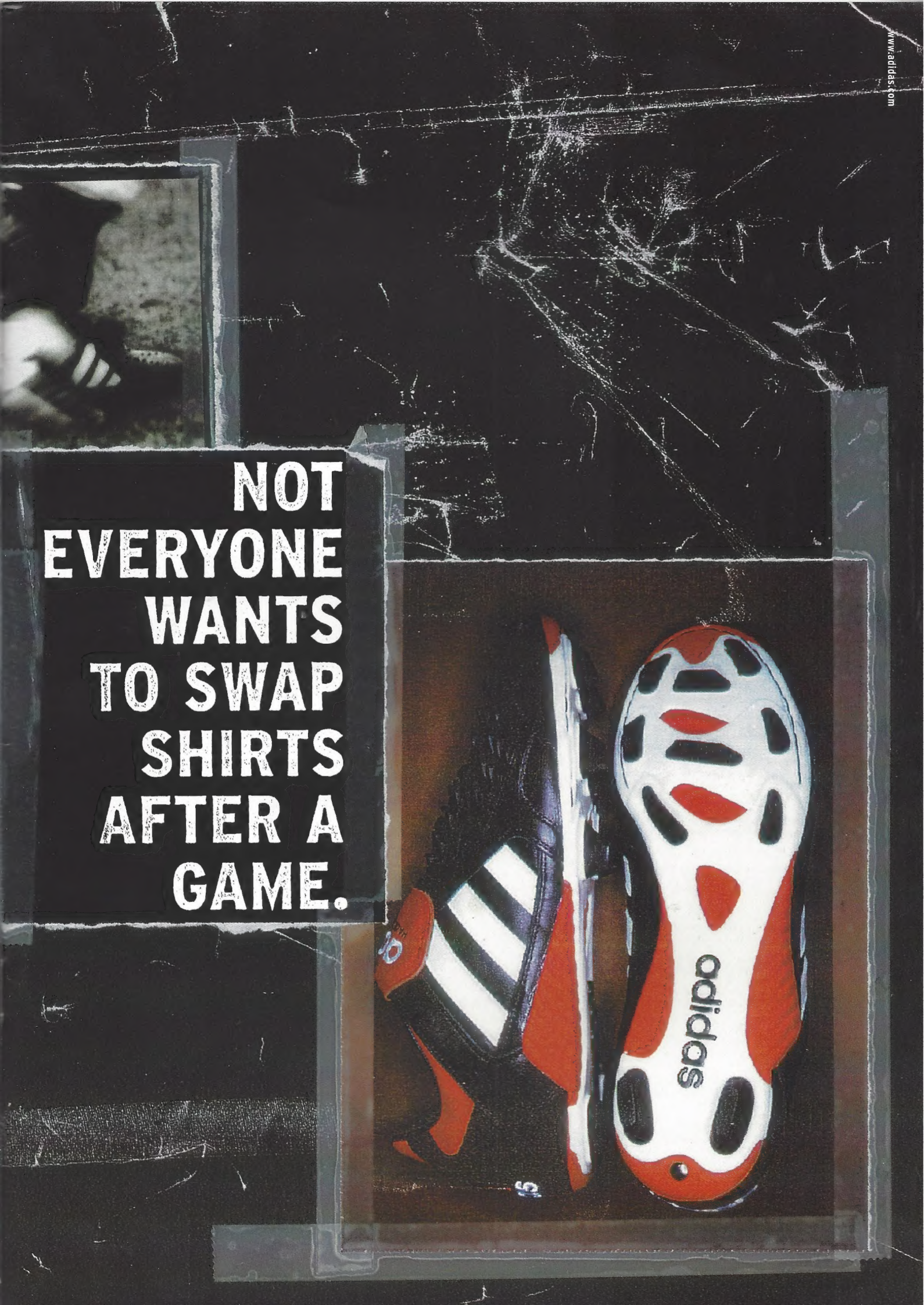
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# CRITICS NOT CRITICAL?

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*Bill McKinnon/John Carey, Sydney Morning Herald, 22.08.97*

*"First impressions are important, and the new Camry makes a good one. Its silence and isolation of engine and road vibration approach luxury car standard. The Toyota also exudes a satisfying feeling of bank-vault sturdiness. The doors ker-thunk closed"*

*Bill McKinnon/John Carey, Sydney Morning Herald, 22.08.97*

*"First impressions count, and the Camry looks and feels like a quality car."*

*Paul Gover, Herald Sun, 22.08.97*

*"Toyota's twin overhead camshaft V6 is certainly superior. It's powerful, responsive, smooth and quiet. Brilliant."*

*Bill McKinnon/John Carey, Sydney Morning Herald, 22.08.97*

*"also setting the standard in the medium market with the 2.2-litre, four-cylinder version in manual transmission with a class-leading $24,750."*

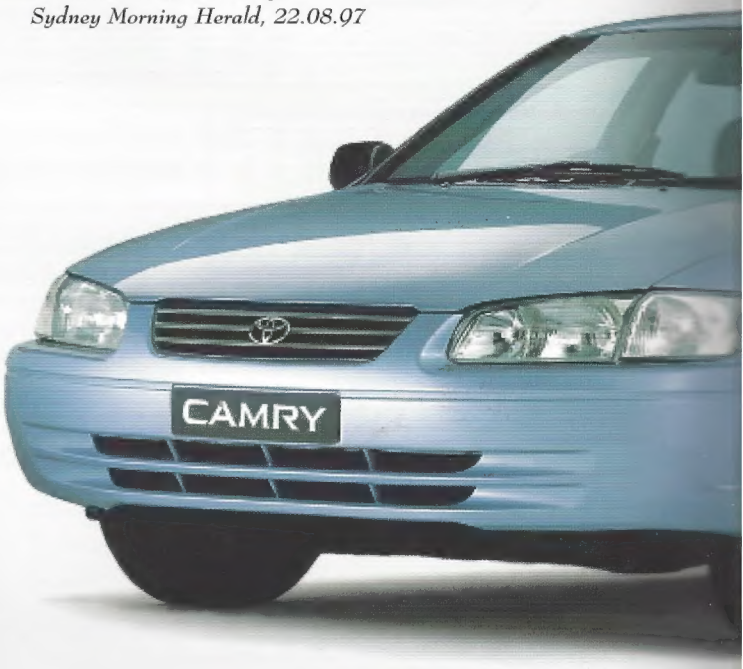
*Nick Dalton, Cairns Post, 23.08.97*

*"has been extensively engineered for the needs of Australian drivers."*

*Paul Gover, Herald Sun, 22.08.97*

*"The suspension, tuned by Australian engineers, strikes a impressive balance between comfortable ride and foolproof handling."*

*Bill McKinnon/John Carey,*
*Sydney Morning Herald, 22.08.97*




*"The steering is firm and feels just right."*

*The Automotive Australian, 02.10.97*

*"The new 3.0-litre mill is the most sophisticated engine available in an Australian-made car."*

*Paul Ellis, Motor Magazine, 09.97*

Saatchi's TY3274/D

*"The ride really is superb, with progressive damping and plenty of control in the rebound."*

*Paul Ellis, Motor Magazine, 09.97*

*"I didn't want to give it back. I was having too much fun."*

*Phillip Guthrie, Cootamundra Herald, 29.08.97*

*"Possessing the largest boot on a locally built car, the new Camry is also roomier inside, thanks to the longer wheelbase and wider rear track."*

*Peter Barnwell, Ballarat Courier, 23.08.97*

*"A sophisticated car, Camry is easily the most advanced made in Australia. It is also the quickest locally-made Toyota, capable in some configurations of accelerating from 0–100km/h in a scant 7.2 seconds. This places the V6 manual ahead of highly regarded rivals such as the Falcon XR6 in accelerative capabilities."*

*Peter Barnwell, Hornsby Advocate, 03.09.97*

*"From the seat-of-the-pants position, the Camry is now a most impressive package when it comes down to vehicle dynamics."*

*Wayne Webster, The Daily Telegraph, 22.08.97*

*"As far as jobs I have done during my time at the Herald go, test driving the new Toyota Camry is right up there with the Johanna Adams interview, meeting former Great Britain rugby league captain Phil Clarke and sharing a few beers with a renowned Irish yarn spinner, Patrick McCarville, at a charity golf day."*

*Phillip Guthrie, Cootamundra Herald, 29.08.97*

*"Pricing is what grabs the attention most on the new Camry. It offers world-class quality at a Korean price."*

*Peter Barnwell, Hornsby Advocate, 03.09.97*

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CARLTON SC v CANBERRA
*SATURDAY JANUARY 24*
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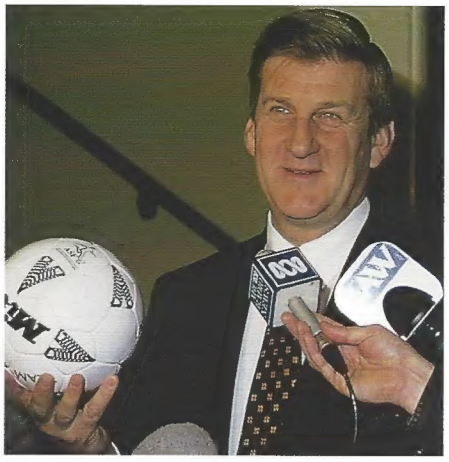
*REDEEM AT GATE 6*



## From Right Hon. JEFF KENNETT, Premier of Victoria

It all comes down to this, here in Melbourne tonight.

Welcome to Australia's greatest sporting stadium to watch this country pursue its second-ever berth in a World Cup Soccer Finals.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground has been home to many historic sporting events – the 1956 Olympic Games, Don Bradman in flight, the world's largest rugby league crowd and more than 100,000 spectators at an AFL Grand Final being among them.

Now, Australia's growing stature as a sporting nation is being tested in the final obstacle to a place in the 1998 World Cup Finals in France.

Australia has entered every World Cup competition since aligning itself with FIFA in 1966 and reached its sole finals berth to date in Germany in 1974.

Twenty-three years on, domestic soccer progressed to the point where Australia is ranked 33rd and more than half the current Socceroos are contracted to European or Asian clubs.

Tonight's match will also decide the last of the 32 final places, which have been sought by 171 countries in the world's biggest sporting event behind the Olympic Games.

The significance of this match to Victoria is spread even further. Tens of millions of people are expected to watch televised coverage worldwide, reinforcing our profile and standing among key Asian trading partners and tourism matches.

While visiting Victoria, I urge you to experience our world-class restaurants, arts and culture, entertainment and nature-based activities to be found in Melbourne and spread throughout regional and rural areas.

Enjoy the game and everything it represents for the bright future of Australian soccer.

## From DAVID HILL, Chairman, Soccer Australia

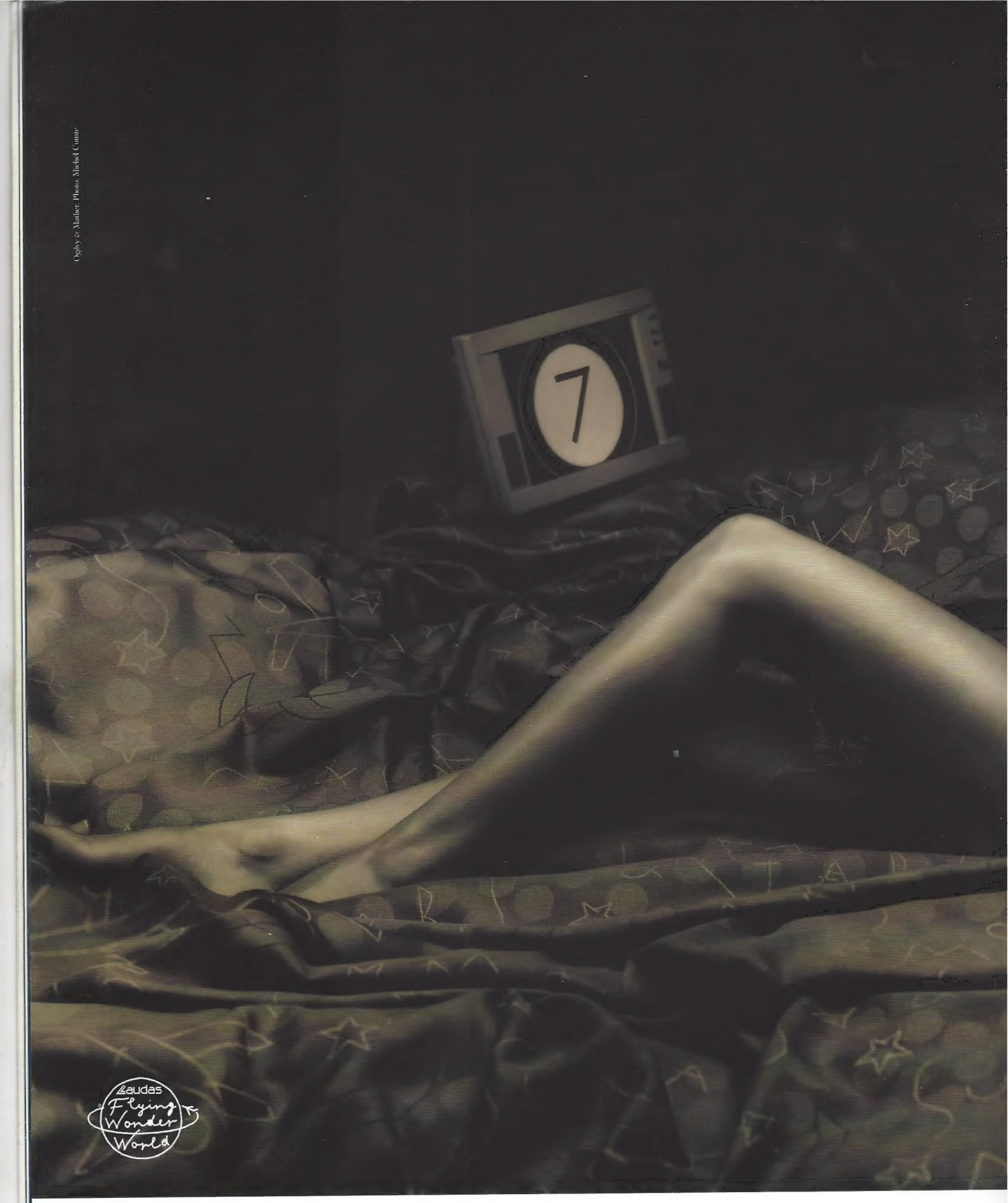
Tonight, the world will have its eyes on Australia. As Melbourne hosts the final qualfying match for France '98, the Socceroos will attempt to create history by making the World Cup Finals for the first time since 1974. In December the world will once again see the Socceroos as we compete in the FIFA Confederations Cup. Our opponents include countries who have already qualified for the World Cup, including Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. And the national league season is underway, with new team Carlton SC leading the charge for the Ericsson Cup trophy.

Congratulations must be given to the team, led by the well credentialled Terry Venables, on what a magnificant job they have done. The record speaks for itself, 12 wins from as many matches played with an average of 3.5 goals scored in each match.

Media exposure is continually increasing, as is public support. SBS TV has continued to provide viewers coverage of all the Socceroo matches, and will continue to do this as we approach the FIFA Confederations Cup and the World Cup Finals. Other media are also providing the public with increased reading and viewing on the Socceroos and Australian soccer.

Our sponsors, Coca-Cola, Optus, Ericsson, Mitre, adidas, Ansett and the Australian Sports Commission have shown a tremendous amount of support over the past months, and we hope that they share the benefits with the Socceroos as we move into an exciting period for Australian soccer.

I would like to make a very warm welcome to the members of the 1974 World Cup Squad who have been able to join us here tonight, as well as a host of other past senior internationals. Their contribution to Australian soccer has been extremly valuable, and we wish you all the best in the coming years.

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# PROGRAM OF EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:00pm | Gates Open |
| 7:10 - 7:30pm | Pre-match Entertainment |
| 7:30 - 7:55pm | Teams warmup on pitch |
| 7:55 - 8:05pm | Pre-match Entertainment |
| 8:10pm | National Anthems |
| 8:15pm | KICK-OFF |
| 9:00pm | Half-time |
| 9:00 - 9:15pm | Half-time Entertainment: Diary Farmers Rooball |
| 9:15pm | KICK-OFF, Second Half |
| 10:00pm | FULL-TIME |

# ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Performed by Jane Scali
(and you, the crowd)

Australian's all let us rejoice, for we are young and free,
We've golden soil and wealth for toil, our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare.
In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia fair;
In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia fair.

## So, if tonight is a draw what happens?

In this two-legged World Cup qualifier the knock-out system applies, where both teams play one home and one away match each. The team having scored the most goals in both games will qualify for France '98.

If both teams score the same number of goals in both matches, the goals scored away will be counted as double.

If the same numberof goals is scored away or both matches end without any goals being scored, extra time of twice 15 minutes shall be played after the second match, applying the 'GOLDEN GOAL' rule.

This means the first team to score a goal in sudden death extra time is declared the winner, as is how Japan beat Iran in their play-off a fortnight ago.

If no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with FIFA regulations.

## Entertainment

| | |
|---|---|
| Producer | Kerrie Hayes Productions Pty Ltd |
| Artists | Jane Scali |
| | Relax with Max and the Blue Royale Orchestra |
| Outer bands | Los Diablos - Brazilian Battacuda Band |
| | The Melbourne Samba Band |
| Flag Talent | Calisthenics Victoria |

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One day, all this could be yours!



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# MAN ON A MISSION

## Terry Venables

**"No matter about all the games that we have won, they will mean nothing if we don't qualify tonight."**

It seems so long ago now but it is just over a year since that day last October when Eddie Thomson announced he was calling it a day as Socceroo coach, packed his bags, and headed to Japan to take over Sanfrecce Hiroshima. As far as Australian soccer went, it truly was the end of an era – and for more than one reason.

The search for Thomson's replacement served up a smorgasbord of names. The Ericsson Cup's heavyweights – Zoran Matic, Branko Culina, and Frank Farina – were all rated. So too was Thommo's assistant and Olympic coach Raul Blanco. Former Socceroo legend Johnny Warren even had good money placed on his name.

All were worthy and quite likely choices. But not many people were quite prepared for what eventually transpired. Rumours came from Europe that Soccer Australia were looking overseas for a coach. Understandably, many people in Australia were suspicious that SA were set to import a European journeyman ahead of a dynamo on the local scene. Then some big names started to leak out – Johan Cruyff, Kenny Dalglish. Then, right from under the noses of the English FA, Soccer Australia pulled off the footballing coup of 1996 and snatched Terry Venables, the man who just a few months previously had guided England to the semi-finals of Euro '96, reinvigorating a long-maligned national side to give that country renewed respect and self-belief.

"I'd been offered quite a few jobs after England but none of them particularly appealed to me," says Venables, now. "I was looking for something different. I'd only been involved with the international scene for two years when I left England – I would have liked a chance to go to the World Cup. The Australia job came along and it gave me that chance."

The British press were stunned by the move. Not only had Australia stolen cricket's Ashes, seemingly never to be returned, but the upstart Aussies had now pinched their 'Tel' and had him shipped off to some apparent footballing backwater. As far as the English were concerned Australia didn't even play soccer – except for that Bosnich guy and he used his hands anyway. What on earth, asked the UK press, was Venables thinking?

"I saw the Australia v Scotland game in 1996 and that showed me the players that Australia had," says Venables, adding that the clamour from Fleet Street only highlighted a European ignorance of the world game. "I knew a lot of the players based in England and I was also aware of Paul Okon, Ned Zelic, Aurelio and Tony Vidmar. I saw Australia play Argentina in 1993 and thought the Socceroos made an excellent showing."

Venables' coaching debut for Australia came in the Optus World Series in January this year. It was a warm January

night in Melbourne when Venables' first-ever Socceroo line-up, assembled from home-based stars, took to the pitch against a New Zealand side during the Optus World Series Cup. Venables, though, was the star of the show. A media circus, quite unlike any seen at an Australian soccer match in recent times, hooked tight onto Venables coat tails. When our new coach emerged from the tunnel at Lakeside Stadium prior to kick-off he was almost flattened by a wave of onrushing photographers. The post-match press conference also rated a massive attendance, with sunburnt British hacks, flown halfway across the globe for the weekend, standing out from the local regular press.

"Where, exactly, are the Solomon Islands?" quizzed some of the puzzled British contingent, unused to football life outside the confines of Europe, while trying to plot Australia's World Cup qualification route.

The big shock for the fans, though, was on the pitch. After years of a predominantly defensive style, Venables had unshackled his new Socceroos line-up with a 3-5-2 formation. From kick-off, wave after wave of gold shirts surged forward. The fans behind the goals seemed initially confused – then overjoyed - at the sight of an attacking Australian side.

"What I'm trying to do is create as many goal-scoring opportunities as possible without running the risk of changing things defensively," explains Venables. "If you can entertain and do things with style that's what you are after. Win – with style – that's what everyone wants to see."

Successful results in friendlies against Macedonia and, especially Hungary, when the Socceroos crashed the legendary Ferenc Puskas' Budapest birthday celebrations by dumping the not-so-mighty Magyars 3-1 (although, the former Real Madrid and Hungarian great, who also had a spell coaching South Melbourne, probably didn't mind too much that his hometown boys lost to Australia – just don't mention that to anyone from around Budapest).

It was after that when things got serious. Australia was primed to fly over its first real hurdle in the quest to make France '98 – the Oceania play-offs. The Socceroos didn't disappoint. The side was never troubled during the tournament, trouncing the poor Solomon Islands 13-0 in the opening group game while evenon home turf in Auckland the All-Whites were lucky to get away by losing just 3-0. In just six months, Terry Venables' Australian team had a distinctive winning look about it.

"There have been some fine results," says Venables of the side's progress. "The Solomon Islands was a good result but the New Zealand games were very satisfying because they are traditionally difficult. But the win against Norway was good as well. They're a side that doesn't lose many games – in fact, I don't remember the last time they lost a game at all. Tunisia had only lost one other game in three years – so that was good a very good game for us, too."

Yet Venables, wily and wise (and sharp with it) is too keen a coach to rest on any laurels. He suggests that the positive results that have come before the two games this week will be irrelevant if they can't be translated at the business end of the year – tonight.

"No matter about all the games that we have won," he warns, "they will mean nothing if we don't qualify

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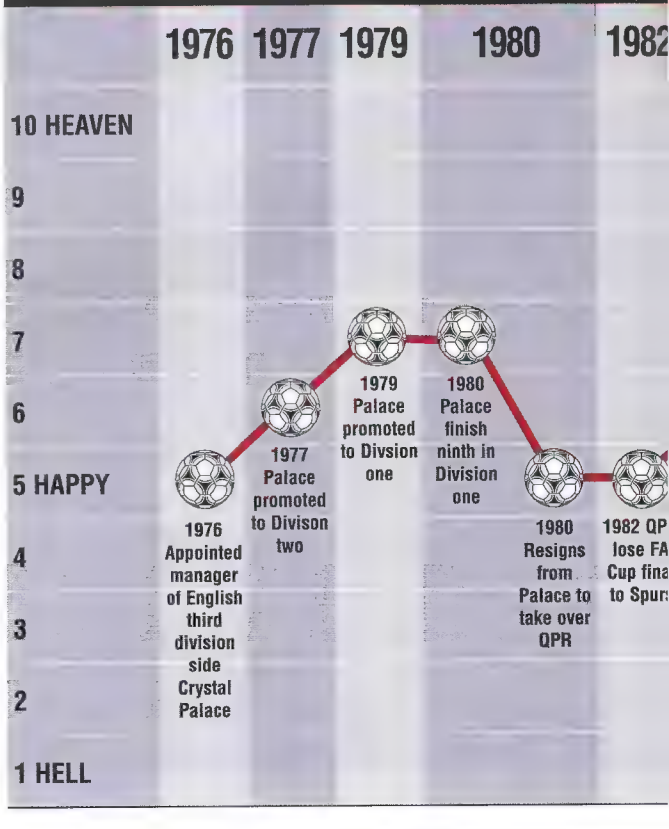
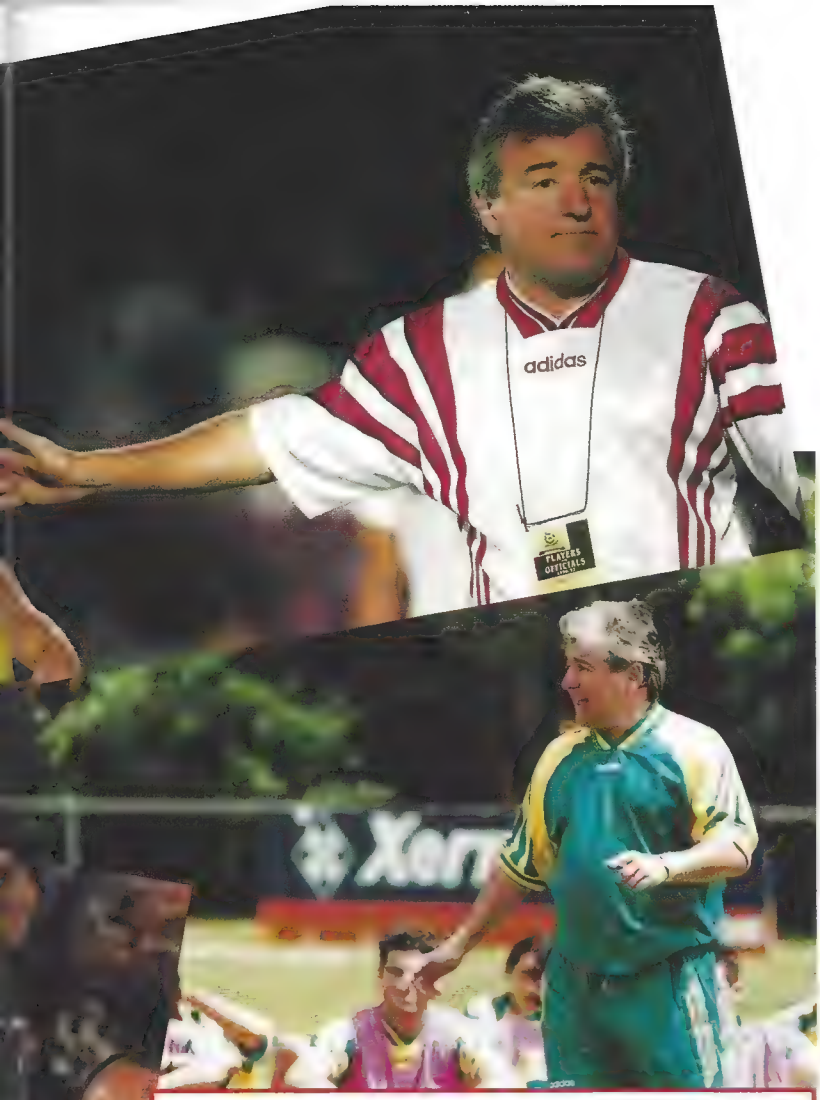




tonight. We must be under no allusions that this is going to be difficult – the last stage is always the most difficult. These two games are the tough ones."

It's no secret that the side's preparation has been affected by the lack of friendly games (the match in Tunis was the only run-out in between these play-offs and the Oceania qualifiers). Faffing about by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation regarding the schedule for the Asian qualifiers has also not helped, either. Venables believes it is important to just get on with the job, however.

"The Asian qualifiers were lengthened because they couldn't agree on what to do with them and that has made it difficult for us," he says. "We had no time for preparation. I watched the Japan versus Iran play-off two weeks ago and then we began training in Dubai just the next day, which was not ideal. But in June and July we managed to get a lot of work done and bed down an understanding. We have a good spirit and I think we have a good team technically, too."

Venables pauses.

"If we get to France it will be such a great thrill for me, personally and the players, too. We haven't had a lot of time together but when we are together I have a great time and really enjoy working with the boys. This has been so different for me, with all the travel and having to pull a team together from over such large distances. It is different but it is great."

Finally, Venables has been quoted as saying that whether he coaches a club or country he likes to leave a place in a better situation than when he found it. Does he consider that he's achieved that with this Australian side?

He grins.

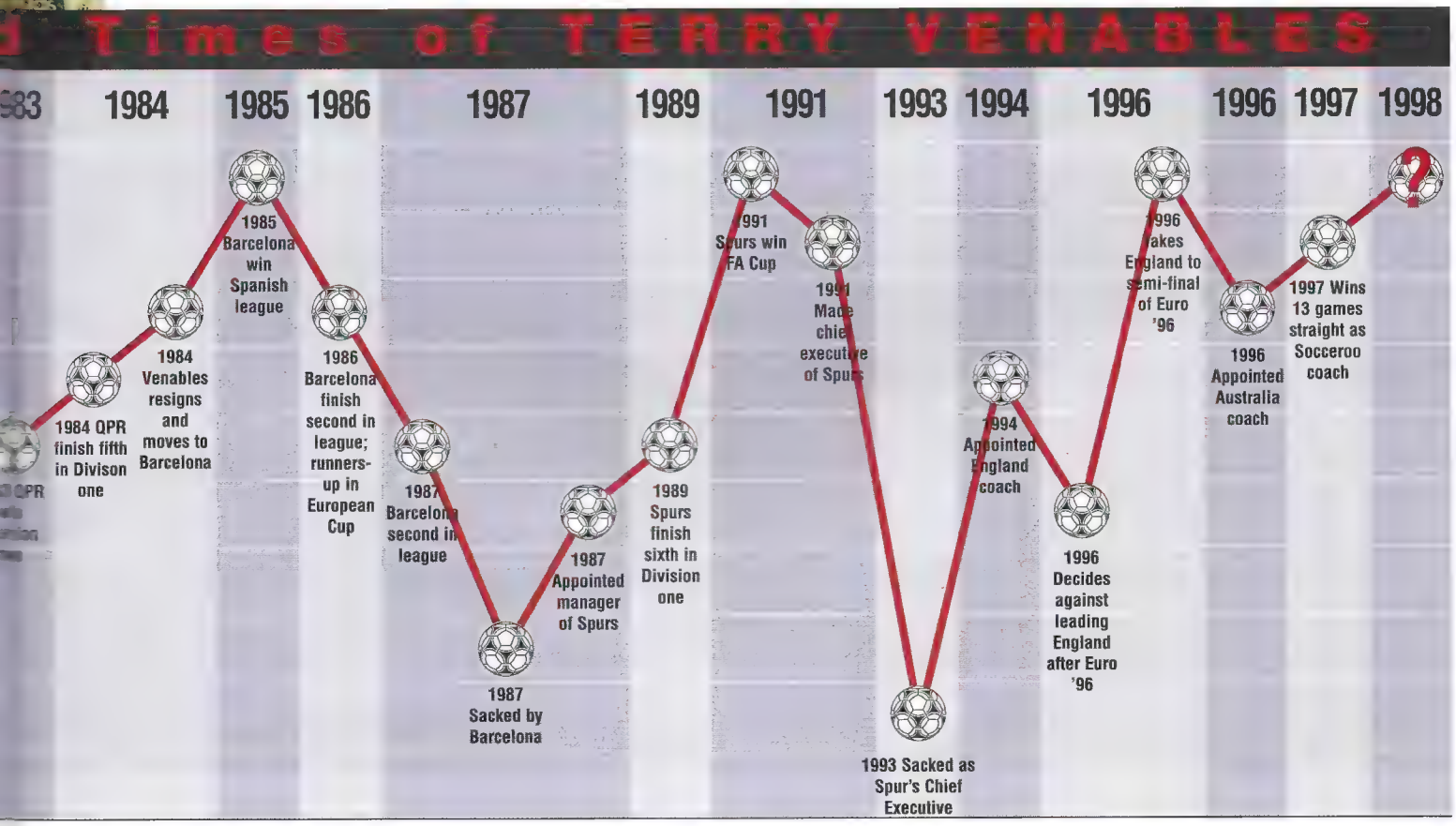
"I haven't quite finished yet..."

**Matthew Hall**

### TERRY VENABLES FACT FILE

*BORN:* Dagenham, England, January 6, 1943
*PLAYING CAREER:* Signed with Chelsea as apprentice (1958); Chelsea (1960-66); Tottenham (1966-69); QPR (1969-74); Crystal Palace (1974-76); two full England caps v Belgium and Holland (1964); League cup with Chelsea (1965); FA Cup with Tottenham (1967).
*COACHING CAREER:* Crystal Palace (1976-80); QPR (1980-84); Barcelona (1984-87); Tottenham (1987-91); England (1994-96).

## Times of TERRY VENABLES



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# Alex Tobin

**"Australia hasn't qualified for the World Cup finals in a long, long, time and that makes it more vital that we get there."**

Although Alex Tobin made his debut for Australia in a 1988 3-2 win against Taiwan in front of a hometown Adelaide crowd ("I scored as well which was pretty good," recalls Tobin. "I remember the goal well – mainly because I've only scored twice!"), ironically, it was Australia's failure to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals that allowed Alex Tobin to cement his place as a regular in a Socceroo shirt.

When new coach Eddie Thomson replaced Frank Arok and was charged with rebuilding the Australian side, the always reliable Tobin became the ever-present rock of Australia's defence throughout the 1990s. Now, nearly 10 years after that game in Adelaide, Tobin has chalked up well over 70 Socceroo appearances and is captain of his country. Typically, though, the skipper never assumed he would reach such heady heights.

"I honestly never ever thought that I would captain my country," says Tobin. "When I first started playing I honestly had no ambition other than to play for my district club *(Adelaide side West Torrens Birkalla).* Back then, the Socceroos never received any publicity. They were never on TV and no one would know the captain from a bar of soap. Hopefully, these days, kids can get a bit of knowledge as to who we are and can aspire to do what we are doing."

In today's world of big money, and players often being no more than a tradeable commodity, part of Alex Tobin's charm is that he has stayed with Adelaide City throughout his career – despite earlier opportunities to move to Europe. It's a quality that Terry Venables has identified and, amid much blustery conjecture that the national captaincy would go to an overseas-based player, proof that talented locals can rise to the top on their own terms.

"I've been at Adelaide City since 1984. I'm happy there – and Adelaide City have made sure that I'm happy," says Tobin. "It was a temptation to go to Europe at one stage but I don't regret staying at home."

Tobin has faced up against some of the world's greatest strikers while wearing the green and gold shirt – Batistuta, Cantona, and Lineker. Yet while part of his motivation in getting to France next year is to again prove himself against the world's best, another is his acute awareness that it's been 23 years since Australia last participated at football's greatest carnival.

"Australia hasn't qualified for the World Cup in a long, long, time. That makes it more vital that we get there this time," he says. "Every player in our side has realised that it's not just something that comes around automatically every four years. We have to achieve something to actually get there."

"Obviously we thought we could have got past Argentina last time – otherwise we wouldn't have bothered turning up," he says. "But there's a very good feeling and confidence within this team. Touch wood – we'll do it."

**Matthew Hall**

# Mark Bosnich

**"When he was only 12 he was training with the first team at Sydney United. He somehow always seemed destined to reach the top."**

With his clean-cut looks, flamboyant nature, and occasional bouts of eccentric behaviour, Mark Bosnich is easily soccer's answer to clowning cricketer Shane Warne. An Armani-attired showman with a penchant for the finer things in life, the gregarious goalkeeper will lead the highjinks around the hotspots of Melbourne tonight if Australia become the final side to fit the jigsaw for next year's World Cup in France.

Cuban cigar in one hand, French champagne in the other, Bosnich knows how to whoop it up off the pitch – and how to excel on it.

Despite Australia stumbling at the final hurdle in Buenos Aires in 1993 the Aston Villa star still made it to USA '94 – joining clubmate and close pal Dwight Yorke for a pilgrimage to America USA '94 on the terraces.

"The last World Cup was a great experience as a spectator," says Bosnich. "Those memories have made me all the more focussed to go to France next year – but this time as a player."

Renowned for protecting his goal with the ferocity of a hyped-up nightclub bouncer, Bosnich is a gesticulating, screeching contortionist. Likewise is his unshakable self belief, which runs so deep it lifts those around him in the heat of the battle.

"He's always had this great confidence," says former Soccerooo keeper-turned-coach Ron Corry, who helped transform Bosnich from a 12-year-old with a ton of promise into one of the English premierships most revered keepers.

"When he was only 12 he was training with the first team at Sydney United," says Corry. "He somehow always seemed destined to reach the top."

"He just had the right attitude and the dedication, plus loads of natural ability. Great handling skills, amazing agility and anticipation."

A hefty helping of eccentricity doesn't hurt either.

"Goalkeepers tend to be a bit different," says Corry. " Mark certainly is."

"I don't know what it is," adds Bosnich. "But goalkeeper's tend to have a secret society among themselves. We are all pretty crazy."

Corry acknowledges that there's daylight between his former protégé and the baying band of wannabes out to unseat him as Australia's Number One.

"He's got the edge over the likes of Zeljko Kalac, Jason Petkovic and Mark Schwarzer because he's been playing so well at such a high level now for five seasons," he says. "There's no substitute for that kind of experience – and Mark makes it look so easy, although he's had to work immensely hard to get where he is."

**David Lewis**

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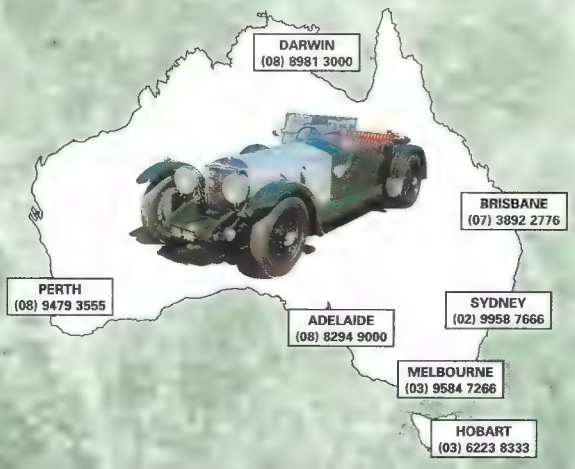


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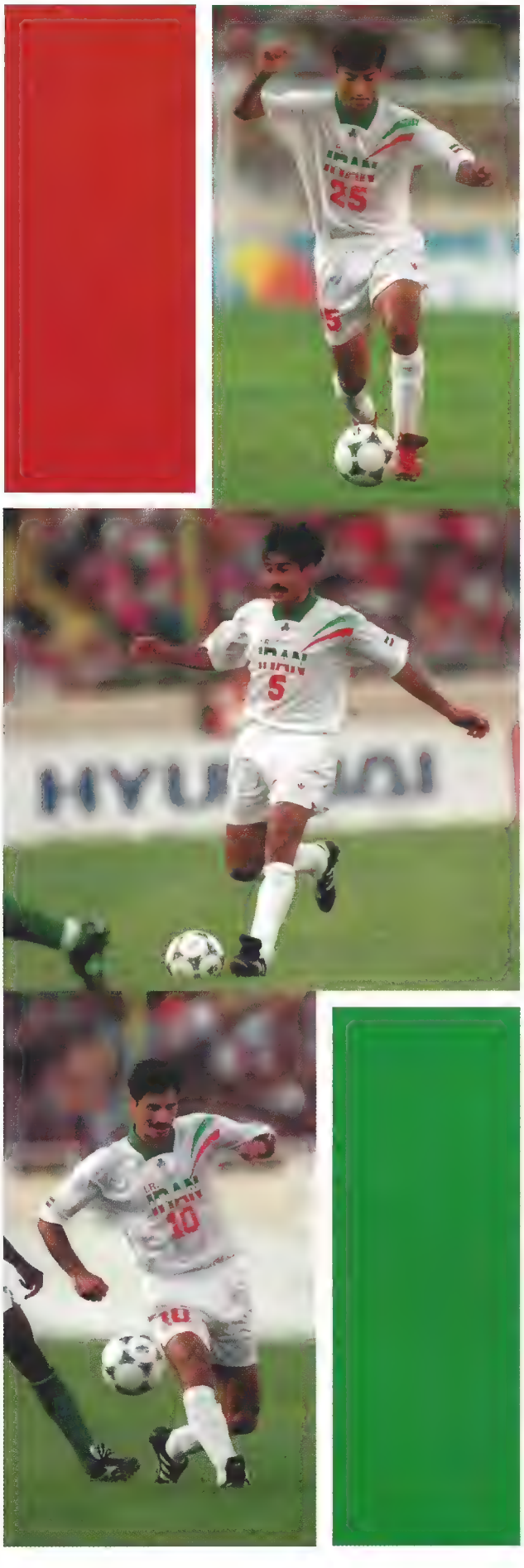
# IRAN: HOW THEY GOT HERE



Iran's re-emergence as a football power in Asia can only be good for the region. In the decade prior to the Islamic Cultural Revolution in 1979, the side had won three successive Asian Cup titles, including a run of 13 straight victories over eight years, and a Gold medal at the Asian Games. Having been thwarted by Australia in their attempt to qualify for the 1974 World Cup Finals, Iran won ten of twelve qualifying matches to reach the 1978 Mundial in Argentina. Once there they caused a sensation when only a bizarre own goal prevented a victory over Scotland, and their competitive performances were a factor in increasing Asia's World Cup representation to two for the 1982 finals.

The Isalmic Revoltuion meant that, for a while, footy was way off the national agenda but in 1996, following a series of outstanding performances in which they repeatedly put Asia's top sides to the sword, many recognised observers rated Iran the best team in the Asian Cup.

Indeed, had they safely negotiated their semi-final penalty shoot against Saudi Arabia they would almost certainly have defeated the hosts, UAE, who were also struggling to find the net and generally looked a tired and emotionally spent team.

Ali Daei and Khodadad Azizi were the two outstanding attacking players of the tournament and the word was out — they could beat anybody on their day.

Iran's record in the preliminary competition was no less impressive. Sri Lanka and Nepal were overrun in the second half of each match while late goals from Estili and Bagheri cemented victories over Oman. Final record: Six matches, six wins, and a goal difference of 27-1.

**Iran's 1998 World Cup Campaign**

**Asia, Qualifying Group 2**

Iran commenced their World Cup qualifying campagin in spectacular fashion with a World Cup qualifying record 17-0 victory over the Maldives, whose coach wisely concluded "We are not ready for this type of competition". As the 'goals against' tally mounted throughout the tournament, he claimed his players were "suffering deep psychological trauma due to their helplessnes". None of this worried Iran, of course, who eclipsed New Zealand's 1981 WC record of a\ 13-0 win over Fiji. The key to who would progress from the group centred around the two matches between Iran and Syria, and after Iran had chiselled out a 1-0 win in Damascus, the Syrians were never in the hunt.

| | |
|---|---|
| **June 2,** Damascus, v Maldives, | won 17-0 |
| **June 4,** Damascus, v Kyrgyzstan | won 7-0 |
| **June 6,** Damascus, v Syria | won 1-0 |
| **June 9,** Tehran, v Kyrgyzstan, | won 3-1 |
| **June11,** Tehran, v Maldives, | won 9-0 |
| **June 13,** Tehran, v Syria | drew 2-2 |

**Phase two**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sep 13**, v China, | won 4-2 |
| **Sep 19**, Tehran, v Saudia Arabia, | drew 1-1 |
| **Sep 26**, Kuwait City, v Kuwait, | drew 1-1 |
| **Oct 3**, Tehran, v Qatar, | won 3-0 |
| **Oct 17** , Tehran, v China, | won 4-1 |
| **Oct 24**, Riyadh, v Saudi Arabia, | lost 0-1 |
| **Oct 31**, Tehran, v Kuwait, | drew 0-0 |
| **Nov 7**, Doha, v Qatar, | lost 2-0 |

**Asian group third and fourth placed Play-off**

**Nov 16** (in Johor Bahru, Malaysia) Iran 2 Japan 3

For the third time Iran was 90 minutes from France. It took a golden goal, but Iran by now had enhanced their reputation as chokers. Okano's winner one minute from the end of extra time would not have been necessary if Ali Daei had converted from inside the six yard box just a minute earlier, but Japan deserved to win and showed the greater enterprise during extra time.

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# Robbie Slater

**"I've been doing a lot of thinking since June. This is like Argentina revisited."**

The ultimate definition of an Australian footballer? Enthusiasm, determination, a will to win. Coupled with a hand-on-your-heart devotion to the Australian World Cup cause. Not forgetting a zany approach off the field. However, when you mention Robbie Slater, the best choice is his will to win.

Slater, as a player, is a consummate professional. When the Socceroos were in camp for the Oceania World Cup qualifiers, the Southampton midfielder was always the last to leave a training session.

His favourite drill was kicking the ball from the penalty spot onto the crossbar before knocking the rebound in with his crew-cut head.

It paid off when he scored his first goal in national colours against the Solomon Islands – a cheeky rebound off his behind.

But away from the playing fields and pitches he has graced with Lens in France, Blackburn Rovers, West Ham United and Southampton in England, Slater remains quite a character. He has a sense of humour that the rest of the squad claim is only understood by team-mate Graham Arnold, himself no shrinking violet.

On one occasion during the Oceania World Cup qualifiers, Slater was performing publicity duties, being interviewed for Channel Nine's *Today* Program. Meanwhile, back at the Socceroo hotel, Australian coach Terry Venables and his assembled staff were knocking on Slater's bedroom door, attempting to rouse him, not realising his actual location.

Two-hours later, having given up, Venables saw Slater arrive at training – courtesy of a Channel Nine limousine. His teammates laughed but Venables was livid.

Recalls Slater: "I guess it was funny though Terry was annoyed. But he only has to tell you once..."

Slater, though, remains quite focussed on Australia's World Cup campaign.

"Going to France to represent your country – it doesn't get much better than that," he says.

But mention that his motivation is due to the fact this could be his last chance and the midfielder scoffs. "Who is to say I can't do a Roger Milla and play well into my thirties? The 2002 World Cup – why not?"

The 33-year-old adds: "I've been doing a lot of thinking since June. The atmosphere at the MCG will be like the 1993 Argentina game in Sydney revisited."

Should the Socceroos make it to France, there's one thing you can be sure of. Despite being fluent in French and his apparent willingness to appear on the Parisian version of *Today,* there's no way he'll be turning up to training in a limousine again.

Unless, tonight, he scores the winner.

**Stephen Copping**

# Aurelio Vidmar

**"When the crowd sang the national anthem the hairs on the back of my neck stood up."**

It was at this stage last time – during the home leg of Australia's World Cup play-off against Argentina for the final berth at USA '94 – that Aurelio Vidmar stood up to be counted. Down 1-0, Ned Zelic made a surging run forward, swept a precise cross-field pass to Tony Vidmar who crossed for elder brother Aurelio to sidefoot into the net.

The Sydney Football Stadium erupted. Children screamed. Women cried. Grown men kissed each other.

"I don't think that I've scored a more important goal for Australia," says Aurelio, with typical footballer's understatement, now four years later. "It was huge. The whole night was a big buzz. Before the game, when the crowd sang the national anthem, the hair on the back of my neck stood up."

Born in 1967, Aurelio played Aussie rules at school until he was 15 (he still barracks for Port Adelaide) and was often found playing cricket in the driveway that ran alongside the family house with Tony. "We had a sleep-out joined to the house – we smashed so many windows that there's not many left – even today," grins Vidmar.

It wasn't until he joined Adelaide City as a 17-year-old that a career as a soccer player became an option. The attacking midfielder stayed seven seasons with the Zebras before making a move to Europe, pitching up in Belgium, firstly with Kortrijk, then Waregem, before making a big impression at Standard Liege where he became the Belgian league's top scorer. In 1995 Dutch giants Feyenoord swooped for the talented Australian but, unable to break into the first team, he took up a loan spell at Swiss side Sion.

After being called up as an over-age player for the Atlanta Olympics, 'Viddy' signed with Spanish side Tenerife in 1996. Despite early promise it has proved a frustrating move. During the 1996-97 season Vidmar had to deal with the whims of fickle coach Jupp Heynckes who insisted on changing the side even after a win – starring in a 6-0 victory Vidmar was dropped for Tenerife's next match. It was that kind of year.

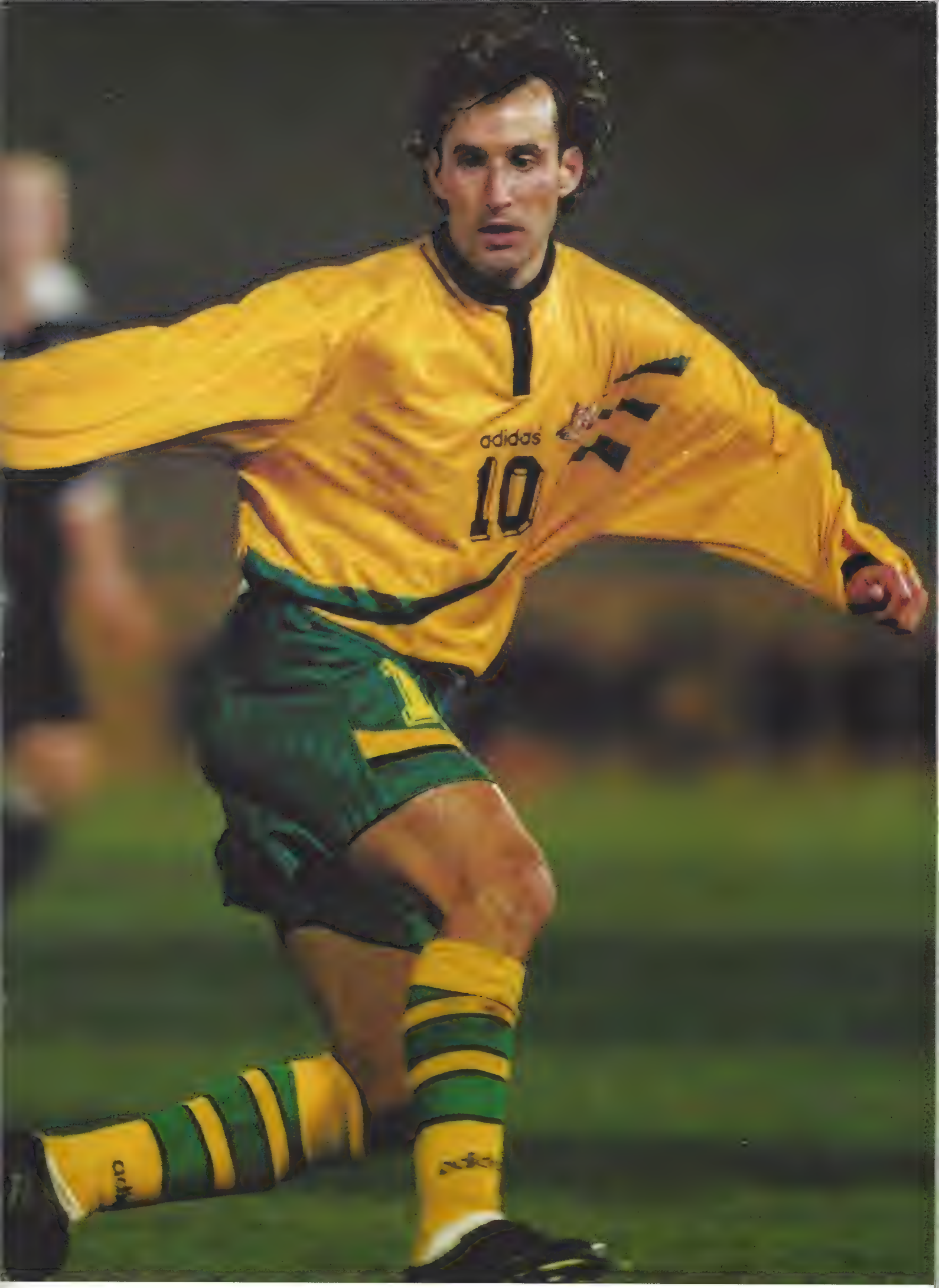
The current Spanish season hasn't been much better. A new coach in Victor Fernandez made it clear Vidmar didn't figure in his plans before he himself got the axe just a few weeks ago. Tenerife, though, have put an unrealistic price on the Australian's head, making it virtually impossible to move to another club until the end of the year.

Still, Vidmar's Socceroo form remains formidable. Seven goals from nine pre-play-off international starts makes you wonder what's up with Spanish coaches.

To his credit, he remains positive and is ready to stand up and be counted for Australia – once again. And if just one Vidmar touch mirrors that unforgettable goal against Argentina four years ago, his troubles of the past two seasons will seem so far away.

Children will scream. Women will weep. And grown men will kiss each other. Again.

**Matthew Hall**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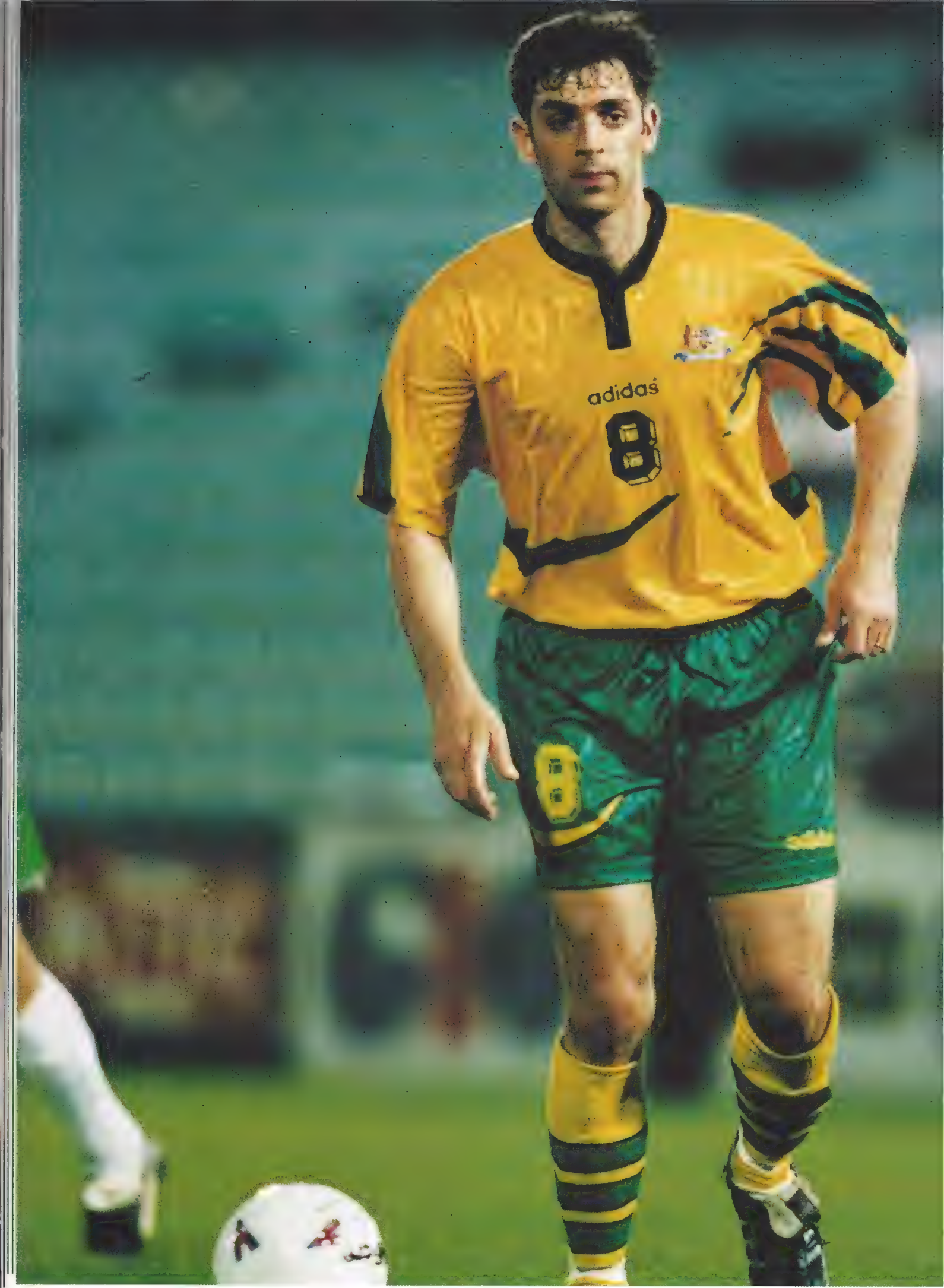
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# Ned Zelic

**With club commitments in the background the stylish creator can focus on the national side.**

FOUR years ago an untimely injury denied Ned Zelic the opportunity to join his Socceroo teammates in the trenches for their World Cup eliminator against Argentina in Buenos Aires. Like a race-tuned Ferrari locked in the garage, Australia's polished playmaker sat idle as a bizarre own goal by Alex Tobin cancelled our ticket to USA 94.

But the spectre of that heart-rending 1-0 defeat – and the chance to purge it from the memory – have galvanised the 26-year-old into ensuring there's no repeat of the desolation that invaded his senses that night.

"The disappointment of missing out last time was really intense," he recalls. "It hurt to miss the match in Buenos Aires and it hurt even more to watch us lose. Over the two games (the first a 1-1 draw in Sydney) I felt we were unlucky not to qualify. But we've got that experience behind us now and it's an added spur for the whole team."

Though reluctant to admit it, Zelic needs the catwalk of the World Cup to prove to potential employers that his current exile on the bench with crack French side Auxerre is simply an aberration on the part of hardline coach Guy Roux.

Zelic has made only a smattering of appearances since joining Auxerre last year after injury blighted spells with Borussia Dortmund, Queens Park Rangers, and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Italian Serie A newcomers Lecce offered an escape route in August, but the $600,000 loan deal turned out to be a red herring, with Zelic dismissing the episode as a "comedy of errors".

It was an episode reported in Australia with much mystery and lots of misinformation. We never got to hear the full story.

"I went there for a medical that never took place and decided not to hang around," explains Zelic. "I was stuffed around by greedy agents and the whole farcical situation shook my faith in how some Italian clubs run there affairs.

"I could write a book about some of the off-field experiences I've had this year," he adds. "But I don't want to go into it at this stage – it's far too controversial!"

To his credit, Zelic remains focussed. Ignored by Roux, he has been cajoled and cossetted by Socceroo coach Terry Venables whose faith has been repaid by a sequence of swaggering performances for the national team during the Oceania games.

Two stunning goals – drilled in from outside the penalty area were sure-fire signs to the people at home in Australia that Zelic – the 1992 Olyroo hero – was back in touch.

"I feel that under Terry I've been playing as well as ever," he says. "Despite what I've been going through with my club, I feel comfortable in my role as a creator and, importantly, my confidence is high."

Words no opponent will want to hear.

**David Lewis**

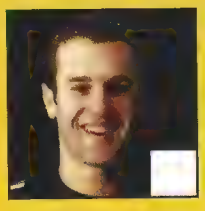
# PLAYER

### JOHN ALOISI
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 5-2-76 *Place of birth:* Adelaide
*Club:* Portsmouth (England)
*Previous clubs:* A.I.S, Adelaide City, Standard Liege & Royal Antwerp (Belgium), Cremonese (Italy)
*Full International Debut:* 1997 against Macedonia
*International Appearances:* 6 *Goals:* 6

### GRAHAM ARNOLD
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 3-8-63 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan)
*Previous clubs:* Sydney United, JC Roda (Holland), Charleroi (Belgium), NAC Breda (Holland)
*Full International Debut:* 1985 against Taiwan
*International Appearances:* 55 *Goals:* 19

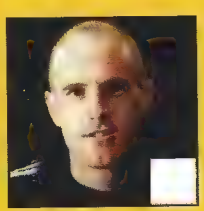
### MATTHEW BINGLEY
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 16-8-71 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Vissel Kobe (Japan)
*Previous clubs:* St George BSC, Marconi Fairfield
*Full International Debut:* 1993 against South Korea
*International Appearances:* 12 *Goals:* 5

### MARK BOSNICH
*Position:* Goalkeeper
*D.O.B:* 13-1-72 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Aston Villa (England)
*Previous Clubs:* Sydney United, Manchester United (England)
*Full International Debut:* 1993 against New Zealand
*International Appearances:* 10 *Goals:* 1



### ROBERT ENES
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 22-8-75 *Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* Portsmouth (England)
*Previous clubs:* Preston, Melbourne Zebras, Sydney United
*Full International Debut:* 1996 against Tahiti
*International Appearances:* 7 *Goals:* 0

### CRAIG FOSTER
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 15-4-69 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Portsmouth (England)
*Previous clubs:* FAS (Singapore), Ernst Borel (Hong Kong), Adelaide City, Marconi Fairfield
*Full International Debut:* 1996 against Ghana
*International Appearances:* 12 *Goals:* 2



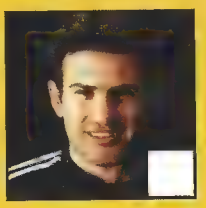
### ROBBIE HOOKER
*Position:* Sweeper/Defender
*D.O.B:* 6-3-67 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Sydney United
*Previous clubs:* Sydney City, UTS Olympic, West Adelaide
*Full International Debut:* 1990 against South Korea
*International Appearances:* 18 *Goals:* 2

### STEVE HORVAT
*Position:* Defender
*D.O.B:* 14-3-71 *Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* Hadjuk Split (Croatia)
*Previous clubs:* Melbourne Knights
*Full International Debut:* 1994 against South Africa
*International Appearances:* 11 *Goals:* 0

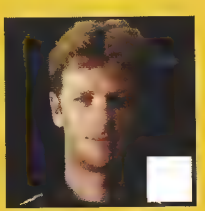
### MILAN IVANOVIC
*Position:* Sweeper
*D.O.B:* 21-12-60 *Place of birth:* Sivac (Yugoslavia)
*Club:* Adelaide City
*Previous clubs:* Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia)
*Full International Debut:* 1991 against Czechoslovakia
*International Appearances:* 53 *Goals:* 0

### ZELJKO KALAC
*Position:* Goalkeeper
*D.O.B:* 16-12-72 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Sydney United
*Previous clubs:* Sydney United, Leicester City (England), Wolverhampton Wanderers (England)
*Full International Debut:* 1992 against Malaysia
*International Appearances:* 25 *Goals:* 0

### HARRY KEWELL
*Position:* Midfield/Forward
*D.O.B:* 22-9-78 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Leeds United (England)
*Previous clubs:* None (A.I.S. graduate)
*Full International Debut:* 1996 against Chile
*International Appearances:* 3 *Goals:* 0



### STAN LAZARIDIS
*Position:* Defender/ Midfield
*D.O.B:* 16-8-72 *Place of birth:* Perth
*Club:* West Ham United (England)
*Previous clubs:* Floreat Athena, West Adelaide
*Full International Debut:* 1993 against Kuwait
*International Appearances:* 19 *Goals:* 0



### CRAIG MOORE
*Position:* Defender/Midfield
*D.O.B:* 12-12-75 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Glasgow Rangers (Scotland)
*Previous clubs:* None (A.I.S. graduate)
*Full International Debut:* 1995 against Ghana
*International Appearances:* 6 *Goals:* 0

Squad numbers were unavailable at press time. Please listen for announcements and fill in the space provided.

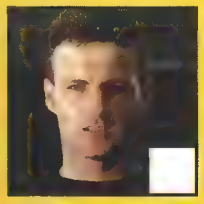
# ROOS

# PROFILES

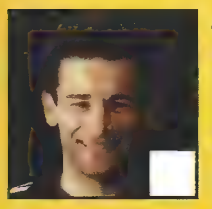
### DAMIAN MORI
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 30-7-77 *Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* Adelaide City
*Previous clubs:* Melbourne Knights, Adelaide City, Borussia Monchengladbach (Germany)
*Full International Debut:* 1992 against Solomon Islands
*International Appearances:* 30 *Goals:* 11

### KEVIN MUSCAT
*Position:* Defender/Midfielder
*D.O.B:* 7-8-73 *Place of birth:* Crawley (England)
*Club:* Wolverhampton Wanderers (England)
*Previous clubs:* Sunshine George Cross, South Melbourne, Crystal Palace (England)
*Full International Debut:* 1994 against Kuwait
*International Appearances:* 11 *Goals:* 1

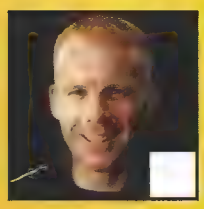
### PAUL OKON
*Position:* Defender/Midfielder
*D.O.B:* 5-4-72 *Place of birth:* Sydney
*Club:* Lazio (Italy)
*Previous clubs:* Marconi Fairfield, FC Bruges (Belgium)
*Full International Debut:* 1991 against Czechoslovakia
*International Appearances:* 5 *Goals:* 0



### JASON PETKOVIC
*Position:* Goalkeeper
*D.O.B:* 7-12-72 *Place of birth:* Fremantle
*Club:* Adelaide City
*Previous clubs:* Spearwood Dalmatinac
*Full International Debut:* 1995 against New Zealand
*International Appearances:* 4 *Goals:* 0



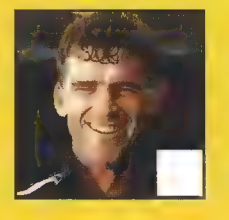
### JOSIP SKOKO
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 10-12-75 *Place of birth:* Geelong
*Club:* Hadjuk Split (Croatia)
*Previous clubs:* A.I.S.
*Full International Debut:* 1997 against Macedonia
*International Appearances:* 4 *Goals:* 0



### ROBBIE SLATER
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 22-11-64 *Place of birth:* Ormskirk (England)
*Club:* Southampton (England)
*Previous clubs:* St George BSC, Blacktown City, Sydney United, Lens (France), Blackburn Rovers (England), West Ham United (England)
*Full International Debut:* 1988 against Brazil
*International Appearances:* 24 *Goals:* 1

### ERNIE TAPAI
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 14-2-67 *Place of birth:* Subotica (Yugoslavia)
*Club:* Perth Glory
*Previous clubs:* Morwell Falcons, Estoril (Portugal), Stoke City (England), Adelaide City, Collingwood Warriors
*Full International Debut:* 1990 against Indonesia
*International Appearances:* 29 *Goals:* 5

### ALEX TOBIN
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 3-11-65 *Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* Adelaide City
*Previous clubs:* West Torrens Birkalla
*Full International Debut:* 1988 against Taiwan
*International Appearances:* 71 *Goals:* 2



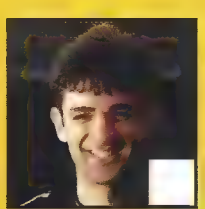
### PAUL TRIMBOLI
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 25-2-69
*Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* South Melbourne
*Previous clubs:* Brighton (Victoria), A.I.S., Sunshine George Cross
*Full International Debut:* 1988 against Fiji
*International Appearances:* 28 *Goals:* 9

### AURELIO VIDMAR
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 3-2-67 *Place of birth:* Adelaide
*Club:* CD Tenerife (Spain)
*Previous clubs:* Adelaide City, KV Kortrijk, SV Waregem, Standard Liege (Belgium), Feyenoord (Holland), Sion (Switzerland)
*Full International Debut:* 1991 against Czechoslovakia
*International Appearances:* 28 *Goals:* 11

### TONY VIDMAR
*Position:* Defender
*D.O.B:* 4-7-70 *Place of birth:* Adelaide
*Club:* Glasgow Rangers (Scotland)
*Previous clubs:* Adelaide City, Ekeren (Belgium), NAC Breda (Holland)
*Full International Debut:* 1991 against Czechoslovakia
*International Appearances:* 31 *Goals:* 1

### MARK VIDUKA
*Position:* Forward
*D.O.B:* 9-10-75 *Place of birth:* Melbourne
*Club:* Croatia Zagreb (Croatia)
*Previous clubs:* A.I.S., Melbourne Knights
*Full International Debut:* 1994 against South Africa
*International Appearances:* 5 *Goals:* 1

### NED ZELIC
*Position:* Midfield
*D.O.B:* 4-7-71 *Place of birth:* Canberra
*Club:* Auxerre (France)
*Previous clubs:* Sydney Olympic, Borussia Dortmund (Germany), QPR (England), Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany)
*Full International Debut:* 1991 against Czechoslovakia
*International Appearances:* 26 *Goals:* 3



# "ALLEZ AUSTRALIE!"

***First thing on Monday morning you may be wanting to head off to your local travel agent. Before you do, here's a taste of the venues for next year's World Cup venues and some frequently asked questions.***

## THE QUALIFIERS:

Nigeria, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, South Korea, Mexico, USA, Denmark, England, Norway, Austria, Scotland, Bulgaria, Spain, Holland, Romania, Germany, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Colombia, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Jamaica, Japan, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, Italy, France, Australia or Iran.

## HOW DO I GET TICKETS?

There are only three FIFA accredited travel agents representing Australia and the Oceania region. No decision has yet been made as to who those travel agents will be. Soccer Australia will be announcing which travel agents are affiliated with France '98 shortly.

## THE DRAW

The Draw for France '98 takes place in Paris on December 5. On that date groupings and venues will be decided.

## NANTES

**Population:** 252,000
Nantes, the seventh largest city in France, is situated 50 km from the Atlantic Ocean, on an estuary of the Loire and at the crossroads of Brittany, Anjou and the Vendee.
**Local side:** FC Nantes-Atlantique
**Stadium:** La Beaujoire **Current capacity:** 52,000
This stadium, situated 7 km from the city centre, will boast a 40,000 seating capacity after current renovations are completed.

## LYON

**Population:** 415,000
The second largest city in France is situated at the confluence of two major rivers, the Rhone and the Saone. Lyon has always been the turning point between the north and the south.
**Local side:** Olympique Lyonnaise
**Stadium:** The Gerland Stadium **Current capacity:** 44,000
Listed as a historical monument, this stadium is within easy reach of the city centre.

## WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

CHECK OUT THE FRANCE '98 WEBSITE
www.france98.com

## BORDEAUX

**Population:** 214,000
This beautiful city was built in the meanders of the Garonne River, not far from the Atlantic. It has been a busy commercial crossroad between the sea and land since Roman timeas and today is a busy university town as well as being the wine capital of the world!
**Local side:** Girondins de Bordeaux
**Stadium:** Parc Lescure
**Current capacity:** 46,990
Located two km from the city centre and four km from the railway station this stadium will seat 36,500 after current conversions are completed.

## SAINT-ETIENNE

**Population:** 200,000
As a green, combative and bold city, Saint-Etienne is using its heritage to face the future through great efforts and careful investments. In the heart of a coal mining area, Saint Etienne was one of the first cities to experience the French industrial revolution.
**Local side:** AS St Etienne
**Stadium:** Geoffroy-Guichard **Current capacity:** 42,000
Close to the city centre, this stadium is easy to reach and will have a seating capacity of 36,000 in time for the World Cup.

## TOULOUSE

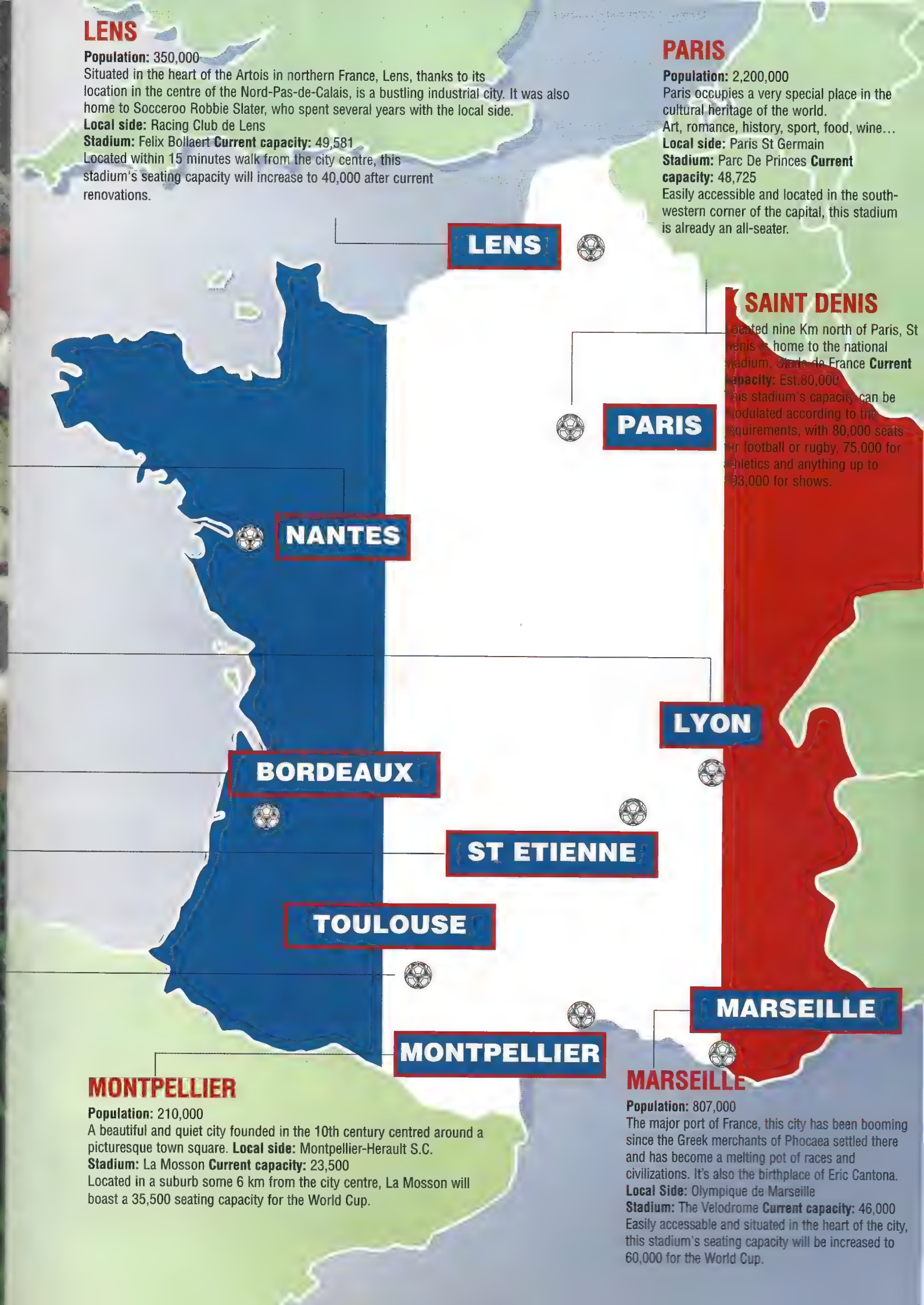
**Population:** 365,000
This cultural, academic, and industrial metropolis of the south-west is the fourth largest city in France. It is the capital of aerospace science, the cradle of the Concorde, Airbus and Ariane rocket.
**Local side:** Toulouse FC **Stadium:** Stadium Municipal **Current capacity:** 42,000
The stadium is located within 15 minutes walking distance from the city centre.

umbro
Nintendo
NINTENDO 64

Aurelio Vidmar
adidas
10
John Aloisi
adidas
11
adidas
1

LYNX
URSA MAJOR
adidas
Mark Bosnich
adidas
7
Craig Foster
12
adidas
3
Stan Lazaridis

Socceroo Legend
Robbie Slater




## LENS

**Population:** 350,000
Situated in the heart of the Artois in northern France, Lens, thanks to its location in the centre of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, is a bustling industrial city. It was also home to Socceroo Robbie Slater, who spent several years with the local side.
**Local side:** Racing Club de Lens
**Stadium:** Felix Bollaert **Current capacity:** 49,581
Located within 15 minutes walk from the city centre, this stadium's seating capacity will increase to 40,000 after current renovations.

## PARIS

**Population:** 2,200,000
Paris occupies a very special place in the cultural heritage of the world.
Art, romance, history, sport, food, wine…
**Local side:** Paris St Germain
**Stadium:** Parc De Princes **Current capacity:** 48,725
Easily accessible and located in the south-western corner of the capital, this stadium is already an all-seater.

## SAINT DENIS

Located nine Km north of Paris, St Denis is home to the national stadium, Stade de France **Current capacity:** Est.80,000
This stadium's capacity can be modulated according to the requirements, with 80,000 seats for football or rugby, 75,000 for athletics and anything up to 93,000 for shows.

## MONTPELLIER

**Population:** 210,000
A beautiful and quiet city founded in the 10th century centred around a picturesque town square. **Local side:** Montpellier-Herault S.C.
**Stadium:** La Mosson **Current capacity:** 23,500
Located in a suburb some 6 km from the city centre, La Mosson will boast a 35,500 seating capacity for the World Cup.

## MARSEILLE

**Population:** 807,000
The major port of France, this city has been booming since the Greek merchants of Phocaea settled there and has become a melting pot of races and civilizations. It's also the birthplace of Eric Cantona.
**Local Side:** Olympique de Marseille
**Stadium:** The Velodrome **Current capacity:** 46,000
Easily accessable and situated in the heart of the city, this stadium's seating capacity will be increased to 60,000 for the World Cup.

# PLAYER

# IRA

### NIMA NAKISA
First choice keeper at 1996 Asian Cup, and produced some remarkable saves, particularly against Iraq in the opener.

### AHMED REZA ABADZADEH
Solid goalkeeper who is strong when collecting high balls and fearless when it comes to one-on-ones. Suspended for the first leg in Tehran he also suffered an injury in the play off against Japan and must be rated doubtful for tonight.

### MOHAMMAD KHAKPOUR
Typically rugged Iranian central defender who is not afraid to mix it. Was suspended for the first leg in Teheran.

### MOHAMMAD ALI PEYROYANI
Sweeper/ central defender. Comfortable on the ball and dangerous when coming forward.

### ALI AKBAR OSTADASADI
Central defender. Another defender in the 'rugged' mould. Missed the first leg in Teheran. Was also suspended earlier in the qualifiers.

### MADHI MAHDAVIKIA
Right back who loves to attack. Scored two brillant goals against China in September. Dangerous crosser when given time and space. Regular corner taker.

### ALI ASGHAR MODIRROUSTA
Energetic midfielder who is usually involved in key build-ups. A member of Iran's indoor team at 1992 World Indoor Championships.

### Y. GOLMOHAMAD
Left back who has struggled to retain a starting position recently.

### ALIREZA MANSOURIAN
Midfielder who generally plays on the left but is capable of switching flanks. Loves to take on defenders and cut the ball back. Has enjoyed an excellent World Cup qualifying campaign and is one to watch.

### KARIM BAGHERI
The star of the Iranian team. Midfield general who dictates the pace of the game. Plays with Arminia Bielefeld in the Bundesliga. Good dribbler with a fine shot. One of the reasons Pirouzi did so well in Asian club competitions a few years ago. He missed the Japan game through suspension following an off the ball incident against Qatar.

Squad numbers were unavailable at press time. Please listen for announcements and fill in the space provided.

# AN PROFILES

### R. SHAHRODI

Left sided midfielder with a good cross. Missed the Japan match through suspension. A questionable temperment makes him one to watch. Substituted very quickly against Qatar when a player went down behind play.

### MEHRDAD MINAVAND

Regular at the Asian Cup Finals but on the fringe during the current campaign. Loves to shoot from around the box and, like Mansourian, is happy to take on opponents.

### ALI DAEI

Another superstar of Iranian football. Tall powerful centre forward with a good leap and fine shot. Has run amok in the past against weak opposition but also has a good record against the top Asian nations, scoring eight goals at last years Asian Cup Finals after scoring twelve in six qualifying matches!

### HAMID REZI ESTILI

Played just once in the 1993 World Cup final round qualifiers, coming on as a substitute in the game against Japan, but since then has cemented a regular spot in the national side, operating mostly as an attacking midfield but seems to operate best when floating between midfield and attack.

### KHODADAD AZIZI

Asian Footballer of the Year and Best Player at the 1996 Asian Cup Finals, a very quick winger with great dribbling ability. A key factor in Pirouzi's progress in last years Asian Champions Cup. Suspended for the first leg in Teheran, but one of the few genuine matchwinners in the squad and must be treated with utmost respect.

### MOHSEN GAROSI

Born 1968. He was a member of the 1992 Indoor team under Mohammed Mayeli-Kohan but has struggled to command a regular spot in the outdoor line-up.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Year of Formation:* | 1920 |
| *Affiliation to FIFA:* | 1948 |
| *Affiliation to AFC:* | 1958 |
| *National Colours:* | Home: Green shirts,White shorts, Red socks<br>Away: White shirts, White shorts, Red socks |

**World Cup Record**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1930 to1970 | Did not enter |
| 1974 | Eliminated by Australia |
| 1978 | World Cup Finals, first round |
| 1982 to 1986 | Did not enter |
| 1990 | Did not qualify |

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND IRAN

November 4,1970 (Tehran)

**Iran** 1 *Ali Parvin (pen)* **Australia** 2 *Richards, Alston*

August 18,1973 (Sydney)

**Australia** 3 *Alston, Abonyi, Wilson* **Iran** 0

August 24 1973 (Tehran)

**Iran** 2 *Ghelighkhani 2 (1 pen)* **Australia** 0

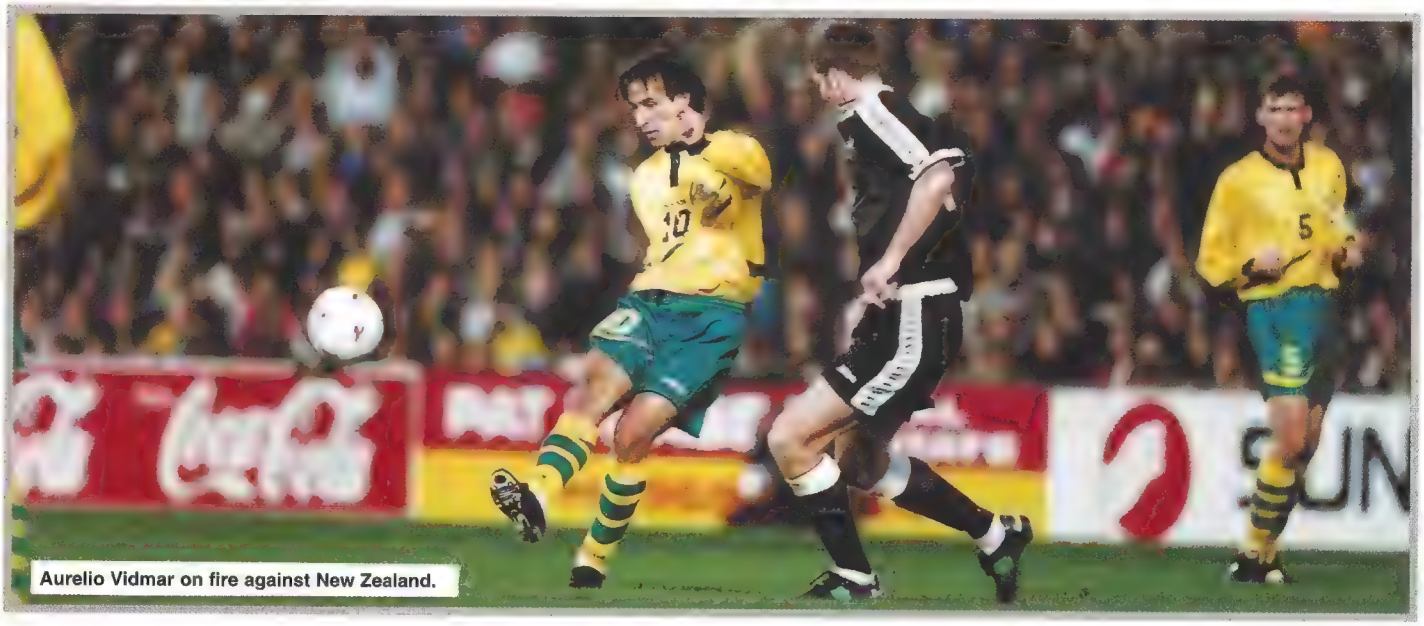
August 14, 1977 (Melbourne)

**Australia** 0 **Iran** 1

November 25, 1977 (Tehran)

**Iran** 1 **Australia** 0

# AUSTRALIA'S DOMINATION OF OCEANIA CONTINUES



Aurelio Vidmar on fire against New Zealand.

**OCEANIA QUALIFYING GROUP 1**

***June 11, 1997***
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney.
**AUSTRALIA 13** (*Mori 2' 14' 36' 55' 81'; Aloisi 33' 54' 80' 88' 89'; Foster 67';Tapai 78'; Bosnich pen 90'*)
**SOLOMON ISLANDS 0**

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Mark Bosnich. 2 Robbie Slater (16 Ernie Tapai 73'). 3 Stan Lazaridis (14 Robbie Hooker 73'). 4 Steve Horvat. 5 Alex Tobin (c). 6 Tony Vidmar. 7 Craig Foster. 8 Ned Zelic. 9 Damian Mori. 10 Aurelio Vidmar. 11 John Aloisi.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** 1 Severino Aefi. 2 Jimmy Kaierea. 3 Jeffrey Kwaomae (c). 4 Timothy Inifiri. 5 Saenie Daudau. 6 Eddie Rukumana (16 Selson Molea 73'). 7 Noel Berry. 13 Cliff Sasau. 14 Colman Maniadalo (11 Batram Suri 66'). 15 George Kiriau. 18 Sala Rockson.

Cautions: Daudau 11'; Inifiri 49'; Manewai 90'. Sent off: Daudau 53'.

***June 13, 1997***
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
**AUSTRALIA 5** (*Vidmar 16'; Trimboli 44' 45'; Arnold 46'; Bingley 65'*)
**TAHITI 0**

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Zeljko Kalac. 2 Kevin Muscat. 5 Craig Moore. 4 Milan Ivanovic. 7 Robbie Hooker (14 Stan Lazaridis 70'). 3 Matthew Bingley (13 Ernie Tapai 70'). 6 Robbie Enes. 8 Ned Zelic. 10 Aurelio Vidmar (c) (16 Kris Trajanovski 46'). 9 Graham Arnold. 11 Paul Trimboli.

**TAHITI:** 1 Ricky Fassain (Jimmy Tahutini 17'). 14 Olivier Dexter. Heimana Vaiho. 15 Sylvain Boeene. 6 Jean Ludivion. 3 Rex Faura. 7 Tetahio Auraa. 9 Vetea Laisan (c). 17 Harold Amaru (16 Steve Fatupua 83'). 19 Maco Douepere (10 Jean Lou Rousseau 62'). 11 Eddy Etaeta.

Cautions: Vaiho 3'; Amaru 36'

***17 June, 1997***
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
**SOLOMON ISLANDS 2** (*Peli 60'; Suri 65'*)
**AUSTRALIA 6** (*Slater 15'; Arnold 17'; Kaierea og 39'; Tapai 47' 51'; A.Vidmar pen 74'*)

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** 1 Severino Aefi (Mouta 62'). 2 Jimmy Kaierea. 5 Saenie Daudau. 6 Eddie Rukumana. 7 Noel Berry (14 Colman Maniadalo). 8 Danny Wabo. 9 Augustine Peli (c). 11 Batram Suri (10 Moses Toata 68'). 12 Robert Seni. 16 Selson Molea. 17 Sikele Buga.

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Jason Petkovic. 2 Ernie Tapai (17 Kevin Muscat 67'). 3 Stan Lazaridis. 4 Milan Ivanovic. 5 Alex Tobin (c). 6 Tony Vidmar. 7 Robbie Slater. 8 Robbie Enes (15 Kris Trajanovski 75'). 10 Graham Arnold. 10 Josip Skoko (14 Aurelio Vidmar 67'). 11 Damian Mori.

Cautions: Rukumana 4'; Wabo 45' Sent off: Rukumana 75'.

***June 19, 1997***
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
**TAHITI 0**
**AUSTRALIA 2** (*Zelic 9'; Trimboli 90'*)

**TAHITI:** 1 Jimmy Tahutini. 17 Harold Amaru. 3 Rex Faura (16 Steve Fatupua 86'). 12 Heimana Paama. 15 Sylvain Boeene. 6 Jean Ludivion. 11 Eddy Etaeta. 9 Vetea Laisan (c). 4 Moise Tetuanoi. 7 Tetahio Auraa. 10 Jean Lou Rousseau.

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Mark Bosnich. 2 Matthew Bingley (13 Kris Trajanovski 78'). 3 Robbie Hooker. 4 Craig Moore (15 Alex Tobin). 5 Steve Horvat. 6 Tony Popovic. 7 Craig Foster. 8 Ned Zelic. 9 John Aloisi. 10 Aurelio Vidmar. 11 Damian Mori (12 Paul Trimboli 78').

Cautions: Tetuanui 44'; Laisan 88'.

***June 15***, 1997 Sydney **Solomon Islands** 4 **Tahiti** 1
***June 21***,1997, Sydney **Tahiti** 1 **Solomon Islands** 1

**FINAL TABLE GROUP ONE**

# GOT HERE

Robbie Slater gives Kiwi Danny Hay the slip in Sydney.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Australia** | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 2 | 12 |
| **Solomon Islands** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 4 |
| **Tahiti** | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

**AUSTRALIA PLAY OFF AGAINST THE WINNERS OF GROUP TWO, NEW ZEALAND.**

Oceania play-off first-leg
***June 28, 1997,*** North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
**NEW ZEALAND 0**
**AUSTRALIA 3** (*Aloisi 18'; A.Vidmar 42'; Foster 66'*)

**NEW ZEALAND:** 1 Jason Batty. 18 Danny Hay. 4 Ivan Vicelich. 6 Gavin Wilkinson. 12 Mark Atkinson. 11 Simon Elliott. 8 Mike McGarry (c) (2 Noah Hickey 61'). 10 Chris Jackson. 15 Riki van Steeden (14 Tim Stevens 85'). 7 Wynton Rufer. 16 Vaughan Coveny.

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Mark Bosnich. 6 Craig Moore (16 Tony Vidmar 86'). 4 Milan Ivanovic. 5 Alex Tobin (c). 2 Robbie Slater. 3 Stan Lazaridis. 7 Craig Foster. 8 Ned Zelic. 10 Aurelio Vidmar. 9 Graham Arnold. 11 John Aloisi.

Cautions: Jackson; Arnold; Bosnich; A.Vidmar. Sent off: Jackson 67'.

Oceania play-off second leg
***July 5, 1997,*** Parramatta Stadium, Sydney

**AUSTRALIA 2** (*Zelic 6'; Arnold 54'*)
**New Zealand 0**

**AUSTRALIA:** 1 Mark Bosnich. 6 Craig Moore (16 Tony Vidmar 31'). 4 Milan Ivanovic. 5 Alex Tobin (c). 2 Robbie Slater. 3 Stan Lazaridis. 7 Craig Foster. 8 Ned Zelic. 10 Aurelio Vidmar. 9 Graham Arnold (Paul Trimboli 79'). 11 John Aloisi (Damian Mori 79').

**NEW ZEALAND:** 1 Jason Batty. 4 Ivan Vicelich. 6 Gavin Wilkinson (Rodger Gray 86'). 8 Mike McGarry (c). Nik Viljoen. 11 Simon Elliott. Gareth Rowe. 12 Mark Atkinson. Gareth Rowe. 15 Riki van Steeden (Neil Harlock 72'). 18 Danny Hay.

Cautions: Moore; Vicelich.

## HOW WE GOT HERE

Although Australia played its first full international against New Zealand on June 17, 1922, it wasn't until the 1966 tournament that we competed in the World Cup

**1966 and all that**

It wasn't until 1965 that Australia played in their first World Cup qualification campaign. We only had to win two games against North Korea to qualify for the finals in England. Both games were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia under coach Tiko Jelasevich.
The first game was played on November 21, 1965, as 60,000 people watched Australia get thumped 6-1. The Australian goal was courtesy of a Les Scheinflug penalty in the 70th minute.
No aggregate goal tally was used then, so if Australia had won the second match, a third deciding game would have been played. It did not go to script as we lost the return game 1-3.
North Korea went on to shock the world in England – beating Italy 1-0 to create one of the World Cup's biggest ever upsets.

**1970 Mexico**

Our route to Mexico was made far harder before the 1970 campaign got underway – which was to become a trademark for the future. In 1969, under coach Joe Vasits, Australia had to play Japan and South Korea twice in a group format, all played in Seoul. We beat Japan 3-1 in their opening game with goals from McColl, Warren and Baartz. Then four days later, South Korea were turned over 2-1 with Watkiss and McColl – again – getting on the scoresheet. The next game saw Japan and Australia draw 1-1. Scorer? McColl!
To progress to the next stage, Australia had to win the final game against South Korea. South Korea took the lead before Ray Baartz equalised for Australia. Next stop – Rhodesia.
Both games against Rhodesia finished in draws, 1-1 (goalscorer – McColl!) and 0-0, so a decider was called for where Australia, through Johnny Warren, Rutherford and an own goal, got through 3-1.
Australia had already playted in Asia and Africa, so when Israel,'s number came up, such was FIFA's logic, no one was surprised. Israel took the first leg 1-0 and in Sydney, at the old Sydney Sports Ground, Australia drew 1-1, our sole goal coming from Johnny Watkiss.

So near, yet so far.

**1974 – YES!**

The 1974 qualification route was a long one. It started with a series against New Zealand, Indonesia and Iraq.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Auckland, March 4, 1973** | New Zealand 1 Australia 1 (Campbell) |
| **Sydney, March 11, 1973** | Australia 3 (Richards, Alston 2) Iraq 1 |
| **Sydney, March 13, 1973** | Australia 2 (Campbell, Alston) Indonesia 1 |
| **Sydney, March 16, 1973** | Australia 3 (Utjesenovic, Baartz, Buljevic) New Zealand 3 |
| **Melbourne, March 18, 1973** | Australia 0 Iraq 0 |
| **Sydney, March 24, 1973** | Australia 6 (Mackay 2, Abonyi 2, Richards, Baartz) Indonesia 0 |

Australia qualified to play the winner of Group B, Iran.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sydney, August 18, 1973** | Australia 3 (Alston, Abonyi, Wilson) Iran 0 |
| **Tehran, August 24, 1973** | Iran 2 Australia 0 |

Australia proceeded to play South Korea for the Asia/Oceania spot in the World Cup Finals in Germany.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sydney, October 28, 1973** | Australia 0 South Korea 0 |
| **Seoul, November 10, 1973** | South Korea 2 Australia 2 (Buljevic, Baartz) |

* Another game was scheduled at a neutral venue.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Hong Kong, November 13, 1973** | Australia 1 (Mackay) South Korea 0 |

Australia had finally qualified for their first World Cup Finals in Germany.

**WORLD CUP FINALS 1974**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Hamburg, June 14, 1974** | East Germany 2 Australia 0 |
| **Hamburg, June 18, 1974** | West Germany 3 Australia 0 |
| **Berlin, June 22, 1974** | Chile 0 Australia 0 |

# WORLD CUP

| | Pld | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East Germany** | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| **West Germany** | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| **Chile** | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Australia** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 |

1974 World Cup Squad: Jack Reilly, Jimmy Milisavljevic, Allan Maher, Peter Wilson, John Watkiss, Harry Williams, Manfred Schaefer, Col Curren, Doug Utjesenovic, John Warren, Jim Rooney, Jimmy Mackay, David Alston, Attila Abonyi, Peter Ollerton, Max Tolson, Branco Bulijevic, Ivo Rudic, Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser, Ron Corry, Bobby Hogg, Bill Votjek. Coach: Rale Rasic

**1978 CAMPAIGN**

In 1977, Australia faced New Zealand and Taiwan in the Oceania Group. The winner going on to a tournament with the four Asian group winners.

**Ba (Fiji), March 13, 1977** Australia 3 (Rooney 2, Abonyi) Taiwan 0
**Ba (Fiji), March 16, 1977** Taiwan 1 Australia 2 (Kosmina, Abonyi)
**SSG (Syd), March 27, 1977** Australia 3 (Ollerton 2, Kosmina) New Zealand 1
**Auk (NZ) March 30, 1977** New Zealand 1 Australia 1 (Ollerton)

Australia were now though to face Hong Kong, South Korea, Iran and Kuwait in a round-robin tournament.

**Adelaide, July 10, 1977** Australia 3 (Kosmina 2, Barnes) Hong Kong 0
**Melbourne, August 14, 1977** Australia 0 Iran 1
**Sydney, August 28, 1977** Australia 2 (Kosmina 2) South Korea 1
**Sydney, October 16, 1977** Australia 1 (Rooney) Kuwait 2
**Seoul, October 23, 1977** South Korea 0 Australia 0
**Hong Kong, October 13, 1977** Hong Kong 2 Australia 5 (Ollerton 3, Abonyi, Bennett)
**Kuwait, November 19, 1977** Kuwait 1 Australia 0
**Tehran, November 25, 1977** Iran 1 Australia 0

**1982 CAMPAIGN**

Rudi Gutendorf's side were thought to be well prepared for their opening clashes with New Zealand but as history records, it was not good enough.

**Auckland, April 25, 1981** New Zealand 3 Australia 3 (Krncevic 2, Boden)
**Sydney, May 16, 1981** Australia 0 New Zealand 2*
**Melbourne, May 20, 1981** Australia 2 (Kosmina, Boden) Indonesia 0
**Adelaide, June 10, 1981** Australia 3 (Henderson, Kosmina, Byrne) Taiwan 2
**Suva, July 26, 1981 Fiji 1** Australia 4 (Cole 2, Sharne, Barnes)
**Melbourne, August 14, 19** Australia 10 (Cole 7, Mitchell 3) Fiji 0

However, the All Whites went on to defeat Fiji 13-0 to qualify even with Australia having games to play. Youth was introduced into the squad for the final two matches.

Surabaya, August 30, 1981 Indonesia 1 Australia 0
Taiwan, September 6, 1981 Taiwan 0 Australia 0

* It had been 27 years since New Zealand had beaten Australia on their home soil. Gutendorf resigned and Les Scheinflug took over as caretaker coach for the remainder of the year. It was one of Australian soccer's darkest hours.

**1986 CAMPAIGN**

It was to be a long campaign under Frank Arok, with the final hurdle being a home and away series against the runners-up of Europe's Group 7.

**Auckland, September 21, 1985** New Zealand 0 Australia 0
**Tel Aviv, October 10, 1985** Israel 1 Australia 2 (Mitchell 46, Kosmina 49)
**Melbourne, October 20, 1985** Australia 1 (Ratcliffe 32) Israel 1
**Adelaide, October 23, 1985** Australia 7 (Mitchell 3, Dunn 2, O'Connor, Arnold) Taipei 0
**Sydney , October 27, 1985** Australia 8 (Odzakov 3, Kosmina 3, Crino, Gray) Taipei 0
**Sydney, November 3, 1985** Australia 2 (Kosmina, Mitchell) New Zealand 0

Australia qualified and went on to meet Scotland in the final decider.

**Glasgow, November 20, 1985** Scotland 2 Australia 0
**Melbourne, December 4, 1985** Australia 0 Scotland 0

Scotland qualified for the World Cup.

**1990 CAMPAIGN**

Once again Australia would meet New Zealand and Israel in the qualifying tournament.

**Sydney, March 12, 1989** Australia 4 (Crino 15, Arnold 43, 55 Yankos 78) New Zealand 1
**Tel Aviv, March 19, 1989** Israel 1 Australia 1 (Yankos)
**Auckland, April 2, 1989** New Zealand 2 Australia 0
**Sydney, April 16, 1989** Australia 1 (Trimboli 87) Israel 1

**1994 CAMPAIGN**

The 1994 World Cup campaign started off against the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and New Zealand.

**Honaira, September 4, 1993** Solomon Islands 1 Australia 2 (Veart, McCulloch)
**Papeete, September 11, 1993** Australia 3 (Mori, Veart, Wade) Tahiti 0
**Brisbane, September 20, 1993** Australia 2 (Veart 11, Durakovic 74 ) Tahiti 0
**Newcastle, September 26, 1993** Australia 6 (Genc 4, Gray 60, Wade 67, Veart 83, G Brown 85 Durakovic 88) Solomon Islands 0
**Auckland, May 30, 1994** New Zealand 0 Australia 1 (Arnold)
**Melbourne, June 6, 1994** Australia 3 (Veart, A. Vidmar, Zelic) New Zealand 0

Australia now had to play Canada, winners of the CONCACAF group.

**Edmonton, July 31, 1994** Canada 2 Australia 1 (Dasovic og)
**Sydney, August 15, 1994** Australia 2 (Farina 45, Durakovic 77) Canada 1
* Australia won 4-1 on penalties (Wade, A.Vidmar, Tobin, Farina)

The final qualification matches were played against Argentina.

**Sydney, October 31, 1994** Australia 1 (A.Vidmar 43) Argentina 1 (Balbo 37)
**Buenos Aires,November 17, 1994** Argentina 1 (Tobin og) Australia 0

# AUSTRALIA AT THE WORLD CUP

The History
of the
WORLD CUP

## WORLD PARTY

# The History of the WORLD CUP

**The World Cup. No sporting event, not even the Olympics, can match it for the sheer breadth of its popularity or its place in the sporting imagination. For if there is one sport on this planet that transcends national barriers, languages and religions, it is soccer – the game they play in the streets of Brazil, the shanty towns of South Africa, the giant stadiums of Iran, and the parks of Australia. While thousands have made the journey to compete in a World Cup finals tournament, only a few, men like Pelé, Cruyff, Eusebio, and Maradona, have made the World Cup their own stage. Not that we want to put any pressure on the boys but tonight, should Australia secure the final a berth at France '98, homegrown names like Zelic and Slater might just write themselves a place in the history of the world's greatest sporting tournament.**

# The History of the WORLD CUP

Chilean goalkeeper ESCUTI dives in vain as Swiss player Wudthrich scores.

## URUGUAY '30

It was in 1904, at the very first meeting of the Fédération Internationale des Football Associations (or FIFA), that two Frenchmen, Jules Rimet and Henri Delaunay, first came up with the idea of a world championship of soccer. Twenty-six years later, the first World Cup was held in Uruguay. Only four European teams actually turned up – Belgium, Yugoslavia, France and Romania – along with Argentina, the USA, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay, making the first-ever World Cup very much a Pan-American affair. In the end, Uruguay, as was expected, won the final 4-2 against Argentina before 90,000 spectators.

## ITALY '34

In 1934, the tournament went to Italy and, like the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany, was staged under the aegis of a fascist dictator. However, for the first and only time in World Cup history, Uruguay, the defending champion did not automatically gain entry to the tournament, pulling out in protest at the lack of European participation in the inaugural tournament. To Mussolini's delight, Italy, the so-called 'Azzuri' (Blues), met Czechoslovakia in the final. And for the second consecutive time, the host nation prevailed. In the seventh minute of extra-time, Il Duce's very expensive publicity exercise was rescued from ignominious failure with a winner from the boot of Schiavio. Italy had won the World Cup and Mussolini had got the fillip he so desperately craved for his fledgling regime.

1990 World Cup Finals West Germany (1) v Argentina (0)

## FRANCE '38

The third World Cup was held in France amid the political cauldron of a Europe gearing up for war. Hitler had already invaded Austria (thus absorbing the Austrian national squad into Nazi Germany's side for the finals) and was itching to march into Prague, while Spain was beset with civil war.

The non-European contingent was led by Brazil, Dutch East Indies and Cuba, while fortress Europe consisted of France, Italy, Romania, Switzerland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Holland and Poland. Hungary made it to the final against Italy in Colombes, and in a see-sawing game of thrust and parry football, the Azzuri ultimately ran out 4-2 winners to make it back-to-back Cups.

## BRAZIL '50

For the first time in World Cup history, a pool system was instituted, England took a spot in the finals, and the Cup had a decidedly international flavour with Brazil, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain, Chile, United States, Sweden, Italy, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia making up the rest of the finals combatants – though only a measly 13 teams turned up, the lowest-ever participation in a World Cup. Uruguay and Brazil eventually emerged as the two teams to fight it out for the title. The Brazilians were heavily favoured to win the Cup, but Uruguay, a team that had rebuilt itself after a severe recession in talent during the '30s and '40s, proved more difficult than the Brazilians had bargained for, ultimately upsetting the cocky hosts 2-1 on the boot of Ghiggia.

## SWITZERLAND '54

From Brazil, a refuge for Nazi war criminals, to Switzerland, a refuge for Jewish war survivors, the World Cup returned to continental Europe.Hungary went into the tournament as red hot favourites after a period of total domination in world soccer and dutifully thumped Brazil 4-2 in the quarter-finals – a match known as the 'Battle of Berne'. Perhaps the most spiteful, foul-ridden, and violent match in the history of the World Cup, two players were sent off for fighting and one for kicking, and a furious melee ensued in the Hungary dressing room after the game, with players from both camps trading punches and kicks. It was even alleged by Brazil that Hungary's star forward Ferenc Puskas [who was later to end up coaching South Melbourne], off the field with an ankle injury, managed to drive a bottle into the face of Brazil's centre-half Pinheiro as he entered the Brazil dressing room after the game. Ironically, West Germany, totally outclassed in the pool matches, ran out onto a rain-drenched Wankdorf Stadium in Berne in the World Cup final to meet the invincible Hungarians. True to form, the marauding Magyars scored twice in the opening eight minutes, but West Germany pulled off one of the great Lazarus acts of World Cup history to win the game 3-2.

## SWEDEN '58

The Nords didn't know what hit them. A thunderclap going by the name of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, or simply Pelé, shook the world of soccer to its very foundations and almost singlehandedly won Brazil the Jules Rimet Trophy for the very first time.
The final between the host team and Brazil in Stockholm started spectacularly with an early goal to Liedholm in the fourth minute – the first time Brazil had been a goal down in the tournament. But six minutes later, Váva scored, and the pendulum swung Brazil's way. Váva scored again in the 32nd minute to put the South Americans 2-1 at half-time.
In the second half, an individual act of aerial genius saw Péle slot in a volley to go 3-1, Zagalo follow Pelé's lead by drilling a shot in the 68th minute and the Swedes reply with a late, dubious goal to Simonsson. But it was Pelé who would have the last word, with a superb header in the final 10 seconds of regulation time.

1990 World Cup Final Argentina (0) v Cameroon (1) Packed Stadium at Openi g

## CHILE '62

Brazil emulated Italy by becoming only the second nation to win the World Cup in succession. Sensationally, Brazil's superstar Péle figured only briefly in the tournament after hobbling off the pitch in a pool match against Czechoslovakia with a torn thigh muscle, and the early rounds were marred with levels of violence not seen since the infamous 'Battle of Berne'.
The final between Brazil and Czechoslovakia in Santiago began just as the final in Sweden '58 had, with Brazil a goal down in the early stages of the first half, courtesy of a Masopust strike. But unlike the Swedes, the Czechs somehow managed to hold the defending champions scoreless until the late stages of the second half, when Amarildo, Zito and Váva slotted in three unanswered goals past the hapless Czech goalkeeper Schroiff.

## ENGLAND '66

England became the first host nation since Italy in 1932 to win the World Cup on home soil. This was the tournament that had everything – stunning upsets (North Korea downed Italy 1-0 to go into the quarter-finals), legendary players (Eusebio, Pelé, Yashin, Charlton), classic matches (Hungary's defeat of Brazil – their first loss in 12 years) and one of the most controversial finals in history. The 95,000-strong Wembley final between England and West Germany saw a thrilling match finish at 2-2. In extra-time Geoff Hurst pounced on a free ball near the German right post and cannoned a shot into the underside of the top bar, which bounced down on the goal line for England's third. The goal still remains a source of bitter contention. Hurst capped off a remarkable performance by snaring a hat-trick in the dying seconds of the game to silence the dissenters.

## MEXICO '70

Whatever its inherent problems – stifling heat, pollution, crime, overcrowding – the rarefied air of Mexico City makes for breathtaking sporting spectacles. The 1968 Olympics produced some of the most astounding athletic feats in history, and in much the same vein, the 1970 World Cup saw exhilarating, attacking, balletic Brazilian football triumph over the negative, handicapped play of the Azzuri for a record third World Cup title and thus, the Brazilians kept the Jules Rimet trophy as their own.

Pelé, who had astounded the world only weeks earlier in a match against Czechoslovakia by just missing with a shot launched from his own half of the field, was on song all during the tournament and was at the height of his powers in the final against Italy at the bursting 107,000-strong Azteca Stadium. The ageless superstar totally bamboozled Italian goalkeeper Albertosi with a thunderous header after 18 minutes and despite a quick reply from Boninsegna, then had a decisive hand in the next three unanswered Brazilian goals.

## WEST GERMANY '74

The year that Johan Cruyff and his Dutch team unveiled the fluid 4-3-3 formation of 'Total Football' (eliminating Péle-less defending champions Brazil 2-0 in the process). On a more parochial note, Australia paraded its wares for the first and only time with a team of part-timers (more on them elsewhere).

The final between the hosts and the red hot Dutchmen was held at Olympiastadion in Munich before 77,000 baying Bavarians and the odd Dutchman, whose jeers and cheers were immediately quelled at the kick-off. Cruyff, the tall, ungainly forward who had run opposition defences ragged all through the tournament, took the ball up-field on his own foot past three West German defenders into the penalty area and was just as quickly brought down in a cutting tackle by midfielder Uli Hoeness. Penalty to the Dutch. 60 seconds on the clock. Johan Neeskens took the point kick and drilled the ball into the net. West Germany had yet to touch the ball – the quickest goal in a World Cup final had been scored.

The Dutch then seemed to toy with the West Germans for an eternity, making telling runs and maintaining possession of the ball, but failed to create any scoring opportunities. All this did was awaken the slumbering West Germans, who responded with a goal from a Breitner penalty and a strike from Muller two minutes from half-time. In the second half, the Dutch, despite throwing everything at the West Germans, were unable to equalise. 'Total Football' was having a bad day.

## ARGENTINA '78

The run-in to the 1978 World Cup was embroiled in civil strife, political assassinations and accusations of expediency on the part of tournament organisers by opponents of Argentina's ruling military junta. If that wasn't enough, the tournament itself was spoiled by poor refereeing, aggressive play, off-the-ball incidents, doping cover-ups and allegations of match-fixing.

Much ballyhoo was made of coach Cesar Menotti's decision not to blood 16-year-old tyro Diego Maradona in the final 22-man Argentina squad, but in the end, it didn't affect the result – Argentina made it to the final against Holland at River Plate Stadium in Buenos Aires before 77,000 fanatically one-eyed Argentinian supporters. But without Johan Cruyff, who had sat out the tournament, Holland ultimately were no match for Argentina, who had the crowd, the referee and the Spanish-speaking world firmly on their side. The end result was 3-1 after extra-time.

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## SPAIN '82

Another European vacation for the Cup, Italy won the 1982 final against West Germany with a team bursting with flair, imagination and big names like Zoff and Rossi. The Brazilians, with the indomitable Zico running rings around opposition defences and playing the sort of superlative football that had soccer writers struggling for new adjectives, had nobody but themselves to blame after their early exit, and likewise, Michel Platini's dazzling French side were snuffed out at the last hurdle.The final between Italy and West Germany was played in Barcelona before a very healthy crowd of 90,000, but the action was marred by fouls and poor refereeing, the West Germans playing the sort of physical, uninspired and decidedly technical soccer that has won them plenty of games, but few fans. The second half saw Italy come out of hibernation, and it was Rossi that put the Azzuri on the scoreboard in the 57th minute. The floodgates suddenly opened, Tardelli scoring a cracker in the 69th minute and Altobelli in the 81st. The West Germans scored a consolation goal in the 83rd minute to Breitner, but it was too little, too late. Italy had won their third World Cup.

## MEXICO '86

The year in which the 'Hand of God' came to Mexico City and Diego Maradona's form came into its own, his party tricks totally dominating, and ultimately winning, the World Cup for Argentina over West Germany.
The final at Azteca Stadium was packed to the rafters – and they had all come to see Maradona. But the Argentinean powder keg was uncharacteristically absent on the scoreboard that day, his prehensile feet held pointless by the tight-marking West Germans. But the pint-sized dynamo still had a significant impact on the game, setting up a penalty for Burruchaga and making several superb passes. With seven minutes to go, extra-time looked the odds, but Maradona sent a superbly-timed pass through to Burruchaga, who drilled the ball past goalkeeper Schumacher to snatch the World Cup from West Germany once again.

## ITALY '90

The tournament kicked off sensationally, with Cameroon beating Argentina 1-0 in the opening match, but in the end, two old warhorses remained, Argentina and West Germany – their second consecutive World Cup final – and it was the West Germans who had sweet revenge. The final was played at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, and West Germany applied the vice-like grip that had worked – for half the game at least – on Maradona in the 1986 Cup final. Argentina were without some of their stars for the game, falling foul of suspensions meted out in previous matches for their largely negative and aggressive tactics. Ironically, a soft penalty against Sensini on Voeller resulted in the match's only goal – a penalty to Brehme – and West Germany, after repeated ill-fated attempts at winning the Cup for a third time, finally got their wish.

# The History of the WORLD CUP

Brazil's Romario is hugged by DUNGA as he celebrates with the World Cup Trophy

## USA '94

The unthinkable had happened. Soccer's biggest showpiece was headed for a country whose general knowledge of roundball extended to a dim recollection of some guy called Pelé who turned out for the New York Cosmos in the 70s and then popped up in a few Pepsi commercials. But against all odds, the media amnesia, the heat and a lousy final, USA '94 was a huge hit. Of all the teams, the big revelations were eastern European dinosaurs Romania, led by the incredible Gheorge Hagi, and Romania, marshalled by the aggressive and ominous Hristo Stoichkov. Both teams made it to the quarter finals, and Bulgaria to the semis, where it was bundled out 2-1 by Italy. But on a grimmer note, the tournament was marred with the death of Colombian defender Andres Escobar, gunned down by gambling mobsters at home in Medellin, reportedly for scoring an own goal against the Americans, and the suspension of Diego Maradona for failing a dope test.
In the final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, two old rivals remained, Brazil and Italy, each a winner of three World Cups, each with a bona fide star in Romario and Baggio. The match promised so much but few chances were created in an unspectacular, negative exhibition of football. By the end of extra-time, the two sides were locked in the World Cup's first-ever penalty shootout in a final. Roberto Baggio, the pony-tailed glamour boy of Italian football, needed to score with Italy's last kick of the five to get back to level-pegging at 3-3, but inexplicably shot over the bar. Brazil had won their fourth World Cup.

**Words by Jesse Fink**

# HEROES

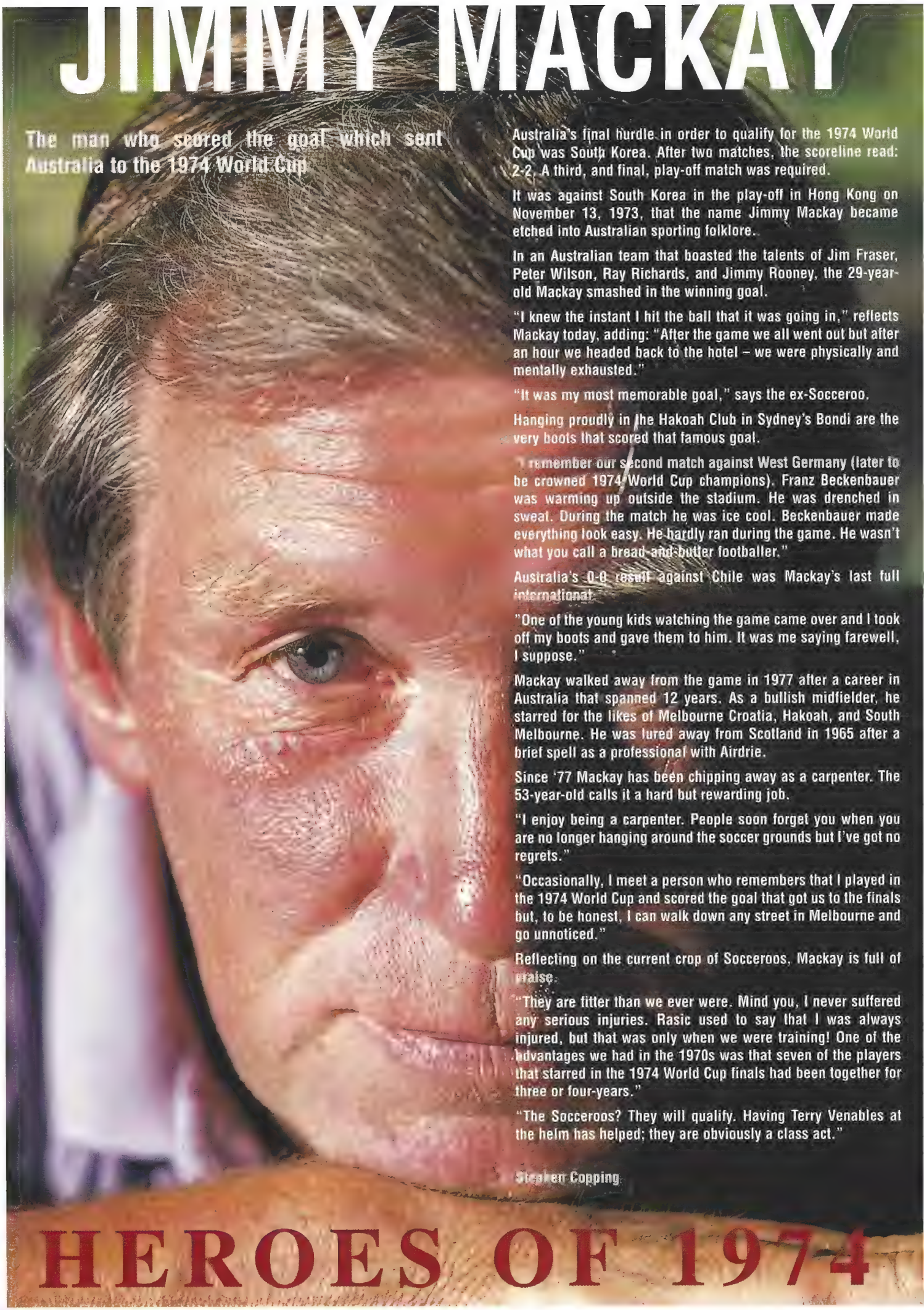
**In 1974 a group of part-time Australian footballers, a jumbled bunch of migrants and home-grown talent, won their way through to the World Cup Finals held in Germany. Once there, they mixed it with the best in the world, on the world's greatest stage. It is a feat that has since never been repeated. Almost unrecognised at home for their efforts it was, without doubt, one of the greatest-ever achievements by an Australian sporting team anywhere...**

# OF 1974

Back row (L-R): Rale Rasic (coach), Branko Buljevic, John Watkiss, Peter Wilson, Adrian Alston, Max Tolson, Ernie Campbell. Middle row: Harry Williams, Ray Baartz, Doug Utjesenovic, Atti Abonyi, Ray Richards, Manfred Schaefer, Les Scheinflug (asst coach). Front: Jimmy Rooney, Jimmy McKay, Jim Milisavljevic, Jim Fraser, Col Curran, Johnny Warren. Absent: Jack Reilly, Alan Maher, Ivo Rudic, Dave Harding, Peter Ollerton, Gary Manuel.

# JIMMY MACKAY

## The man who scored the goal which sent Australia to the 1974 World Cup



Australia's final hurdle in order to qualify for the 1974 World Cup was South Korea. After two matches, the scoreline read: 2-2. A third, and final, play-off match was required.

It was against South Korea in the play-off in Hong Kong on November 13, 1973, that the name Jimmy Mackay became etched into Australian sporting folklore.

In an Australian team that boasted the talents of Jim Fraser, Peter Wilson, Ray Richards, and Jimmy Rooney, the 29-year-old Mackay smashed in the winning goal.

"I knew the instant I hit the ball that it was going in," reflects Mackay today, adding: "After the game we all went out but after an hour we headed back to the hotel – we were physically and mentally exhausted."

"It was my most memorable goal," says the ex-Socceroo.

Hanging proudly in the Hakoah Club in Sydney's Bondi are the very boots that scored that famous goal.

"I remember our second match against West Germany (later to be crowned 1974 World Cup champions). Franz Beckenbauer was warming up outside the stadium. He was drenched in sweat. During the match he was ice cool. Beckenbauer made everything look easy. He hardly ran during the game. He wasn't what you call a bread-and-butter footballer."

Australia's 0-0 result against Chile was Mackay's last full international.

"One of the young kids watching the game came over and I took off my boots and gave them to him. It was me saying farewell, I suppose."

Mackay walked away from the game in 1977 after a career in Australia that spanned 12 years. As a bullish midfielder, he starred for the likes of Melbourne Croatia, Hakoah, and South Melbourne. He was lured away from Scotland in 1965 after a brief spell as a professional with Airdrie.

Since '77 Mackay has been chipping away as a carpenter. The 53-year-old calls it a hard but rewarding job.

"I enjoy being a carpenter. People soon forget you when you are no longer hanging around the soccer grounds but I've got no regrets."

"Occasionally, I meet a person who remembers that I played in the 1974 World Cup and scored the goal that got us to the finals but, to be honest, I can walk down any street in Melbourne and go unnoticed."

Reflecting on the current crop of Socceroos, Mackay is full of praise.

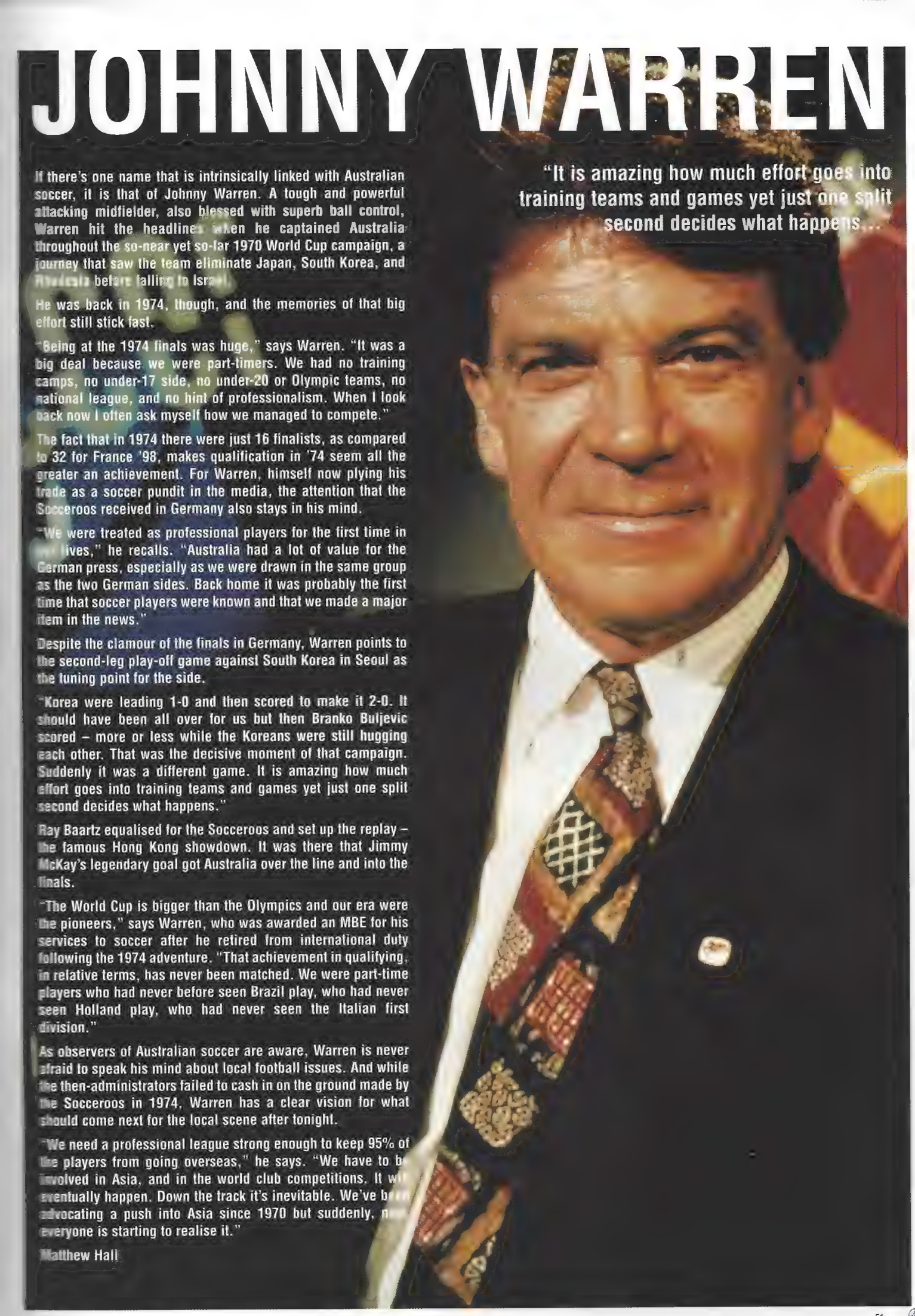
"They are fitter than we ever were. Mind you, I never suffered any serious injuries. Rasic used to say that I was always injured, but that was only when we were training! One of the advantages we had in the 1970s was that seven of the players that starred in the 1974 World Cup finals had been together for three or four-years."

"The Socceroos? They will qualify. Having Terry Venables at the helm has helped; they are obviously a class act."

Stephen Copping

# HEROES OF 1974

# JOHNNY WARREN



If there's one name that is intrinsically linked with Australian soccer, it is that of Johnny Warren. A tough and powerful attacking midfielder, also blessed with superb ball control, Warren hit the headlines when he captained Australia throughout the so-near yet so-far 1970 World Cup campaign, a journey that saw the team eliminate Japan, South Korea, and Rhodesia before falling to Israel.

He was back in 1974, though, and the memories of that big effort still stick fast.

"Being at the 1974 finals was huge," says Warren. "It was a big deal because we were part-timers. We had no training camps, no under-17 side, no under-20 or Olympic teams, no national league, and no hint of professionalism. When I look back now I often ask myself how we managed to compete."

The fact that in 1974 there were just 16 finalists, as compared to 32 for France '98, makes qualification in '74 seem all the greater an achievement. For Warren, himself now plying his trade as a soccer pundit in the media, the attention that the Socceroos received in Germany also stays in his mind.

"We were treated as professional players for the first time in our lives," he recalls. "Australia had a lot of value for the German press, especially as we were drawn in the same group as the two German sides. Back home it was probably the first time that soccer players were known and that we made a major item in the news."

Despite the clamour of the finals in Germany, Warren points to the second-leg play-off game against South Korea in Seoul as the tuning point for the side.

"Korea were leading 1-0 and then scored to make it 2-0. It should have been all over for us but then Branko Buljevic scored – more or less while the Koreans were still hugging each other. That was the decisive moment of that campaign. Suddenly it was a different game. It is amazing how much effort goes into training teams and games yet just one split second decides what happens."

Ray Baartz equalised for the Socceroos and set up the replay – the famous Hong Kong showdown. It was there that Jimmy McKay's legendary goal got Australia over the line and into the finals.

"The World Cup is bigger than the Olympics and our era were the pioneers," says Warren, who was awarded an MBE for his services to soccer after he retired from international duty following the 1974 adventure. "That achievement in qualifying, in relative terms, has never been matched. We were part-time players who had never before seen Brazil play, who had never seen Holland play, who had never seen the Italian first division."

As observers of Australian soccer are aware, Warren is never afraid to speak his mind about local football issues. And while the then-administrators failed to cash in on the ground made by the Socceroos in 1974, Warren has a clear vision for what should come next for the local scene after tonight.

"We need a professional league strong enough to keep 95% of the players from going overseas," he says. "We have to be involved in Asia, and in the world club competitions. It will eventually happen. Down the track it's inevitable. We've been advocating a push into Asia since 1970 but suddenly, now everyone is starting to realise it."

Matthew Hall

"It is amazing how much effort goes into training teams and games yet just one split second decides what happens..."

# HARRY WILLIAMS

"A neat passer, a good tackler, cool under pressure, he was also one of the fastest defenders in the game."

When Harry Williams was growing up during the 1960s he would spend two-and-a-half hours traversing Sydney's south-western suburbs to get himself to training – three times a week. His first pair of boots were plastic and cost $2 from the local Woolworths.

"It was all my mother and father could afford," he remembers.

But Williams isn't the sort of guy to kick back and reminisce about grand old days and talk up how today's kids have never had it so easy. Because from hard and humble beginnings came the opportunity that every soccer-playing kid dreams of – to represent his country at a World Cup finals.

"It seems so long ago now," says Williams, pausing. "But then it was 23 years ago!" he laughs.

As with a lot of the former 1974 squad Williams feels that there was something special about the side that made the trip to Germany. "The thing that I recall most is the great camaraderie we had within the squad," he says. "We were all in it together and the bond between the guys was very strong."

Williams started his career as a striker before converting to a fullback with St George. It was there in 1970, after just six games for the Sydney side, that coach Rale Rasic spotted the talented 19-year-old and called him up for the national side's 1970 world tour. Williams first pulled on the Socceroo shirt for a 3-0 win against Hong Kong side Jardine Sports Club. His full debut came later in the tour as Australia played the Macao national side, thumping them 9-0.

Although limited to one appearance in the '74 finals, coming on as a substitute for Col Curran against Chile, Williams later established himself as a regular in the Australian side, playing 43 games for the Socceroos during the 1970s.

Reports at the time describe Williams as a neat passer, a good tackler, cool under pressure. He was also one of the fastest defenders in the game.

Today, the quietly spoken Williams laughs: "Those things are probably all true but I think I wrote most of those reports myself!"

He became a firm favourite with St George before moving to Canberra City in 1978. He also played with ACT side Inter Monaro until 1990 ("They couldn't get rid of me," he says) and still likes to get amongst it. This year played in a masters tournament in Canberra alongside some of his former Socceroo teammates.

Williams, now a Canberra-based senior public servant who has worked for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs and is now with the Office of the ACT Chief Minister, was the first – so far only – Aboriginal Australian to represent his country.

"There are quite a lot of Aboriginal people who play soccer but it is something that needs a lot of development," says Williams. "Before me there were guys like Charlie Perkins (who in the 1960s attracted the attention of Manchester United and Everton) but the number of people playing hasn't translated to the national league. Most kids end up playing Aussie rules or rugby league. It would be good to get more aboriginal kids involved in the game."

"If someone was to give me a car, a few balls, and a bit of a wage to go around the country and get kids interested in playing the game, I would jump at the chance," adds Williams today. "I would just love to do something like that."

Matthew Hall

HEROES OF 1974

# THE COACH RALE RASIC

"We were fuelled by national pride"

The year was 1974 and the [illegible] West Germany, where – at just 37 years of age – Yugoslav-born Rale Rasic Rasic was a sapling coach among a cast of grand masters.

A bread and [illegible] stew of [illegible] and skill, Rasic's squad of semi-professionals [illegible] the [illegible] of a qualification trail that took them through Teheran and walked the tightrope of Seoul to reach their destination.

Times were different then. While Terry Venables stands to earn in excess of $1 million should Australia get the result tonight, Rasic received just $10,000 during his four years in charge – $1000 less than he pocketed for signing 8000 autographs for curious fans in Germany.

Money was so tight that soccer's then ruling body – the Australian Soccer Federation – couldn't stump up the cash to send assistant coach Les Scheinflug and team psychologist John Burgess to Iran for an earlier death-or-glory eliminator.

But while bank balances dipped, spirits soared under Rasic's rule.

"Money wasn't our motivation, we were fuelled by national pride," recalls Rasic, whose feats earned him a place in Australian sport's Hall of Fame alongside legends like Dawn Fraser and Ken Rosewall.

"I had at my disposal a group of incredible people of great moral character and amazing spirit," he says. "We had a love and passion for this country and felt like pioneers. Reaching the World Cup was a breathtaking experience and actually going there brought me to tears. It's the best feeling in the world. No wonder Terry Venables has been knocking back offers to return to club football – he knows what it means for a coach to get there."

Rasic – who suffered just 14 defeats in 58 games at the helm – fashioned a team from disparate cultural backgrounds into the most feared side in Asia, built around the attacking genius of Ray Baartz ("By far the best player I've ever been involved with," says Rasic), who tragically missed the finals following an off-the-ball kung-fu chop by Uruguayan wildman Garisto during a supposed World Cup warm-up 'friendly'.

Rasic also had a way with words. Against Iran, he aimed a blow-torch at an already inflammable situation when he claimed before the game that his side were a "superior race". He further enraged the locals, many of whom had stoned the returning Iranian team at the airport following their side's 3-0 first leg loss in Sydney, by declaring that Australia had brought their own food as the local stuff wasn't good enough. Sound familiar?

"The atmosphere inside the stadium was the most hostile I've ever experienced," says Rasic. "You couldn't hear a word uttered on the touchline," recalls Rasic. "The occasion was too big for some of our players and they just froze. We performed heroics to lose only 2-0 and go through to face South Korea in the final hurdle before Germany. We also won the respect of the Iranians [illegible] Shah's son even gave me an 18 carat gold bracelet!" Rasic, a former biology student who played most of his football with the now defunct Footscray, was never one to respect the sensibilities of his masters.

And it wasn't long after the World C[illegible] that he unceremoniously dumped.

"I was outspoken and trod on a few [illegible]," he concedes. "I was a young coach and didn't care if what I sa[illegible] people. I suppose I [illegible] the price for that."

He returned to club management with Marconi, [illegible] Parramatta and now runs coaching clinics in the US an[illegible] patents training aids for aspiring coaches.

But his gaze still drifts to the national team.

"We're no longer one of soccer's banana republics," he says. "[illegible]e got a team packed with quality players who'll be relishing going to France like actors going to Hollywood."

David Lewis

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# THE BEST TELL IT LIKE IT IS.

"If a player lives in Australia I can't buy him but if he lives out of Australia I can? It's absolutely ludicrous!"

**TERRY VENABLES,** August 1997

"All Eddie Thomson did was give me helpful advice. He knew how things worked. He was the perfect person to ask advice from."

**NED ZELIC,** September 1997

"If things aren't going the way you want them to it can be tough. But that's when you separate the ones who really want to do it."

**PAUL OKON,** October 1997

"With the reputation I've started to build, there's the risk of making a fool of myself."

**MARK BOSNICH,** October 1996

"The game in England is played at 150 kph. Sometimes, there's no technique at all."

**ROBBIE SLATER,** September 1997

"Of course, Venables wasn't very happy – he was quite clear about that. But I asked him to give me another chance. What can I say?"

**MARK VIDUKA,** November 1997

"The ultimate for me is to coach the national team..."

**FRANK FARINA,** December 1996

"If we qualify it will be my greatest soccer moment. And I am sure I won't be alone."

**ALEX TOBIN,** December 1997

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# RAY RICHARDS

If anyone sums up the spirit of the 1974 Socceroos, it is gritty midfielder Ray Richards and an incident against Chile, in the side's final game. With the score stuck at 0-0, Richards received his second yellow card for the game, yet infamously, the referee failed to notice that Richards should have been sent off. Our Ray stayed on the pitch a full six minutes before the error was realised.

"Getting two bookings in the first place was hard enough to take but the referee didn't pull out the red card on the second occasion. I just carried on playing until he spotted the mistake," recalls Richards. "Thankfully, by the time I did have to leave the pitch there was only three or four minutes to go."

According to former coach Rale Rasic, Richards was one of the true characters of the 1974 Australian squad.

"His sense of humour would end any tension the players sometimes felt," says Rasic. "Richards had one of the longest throws in the game and was hard-as-nails when it came to a 50-50 ball."

It was as a boy growing up in London that Richards first realised his desire to play for Australia. Living in Croydon, on the outskirts of London, he was determined to emigrate to Australia. In the same week he received his immigration papers from Australia House another letter arrived requesting the 17-year-old to trial with Leyton Orient.

"I took a tube journey to Leyton, watched the players train, and then headed home. My father asked how I played but my reply was 'I didn't'. I wanted to go to Australia. I've got no regrets. I achieved more out of the game in Australia than I would have in England."

Knocking up 32 international appearances for Australia, the one-time Marconi Fairfield player, now 51, is still running the same sporting goods business he launched 24-years ago with his then-coach Rale Rasic.

After a spell as Apia Leichhardt coach during the late '70s, Richards has established a successful business. Coaching was not a long-term option.

"I have never been afraid to speak my mind and that got me into a few problems," he says.

A career highlight remains his role in marking the great Pele in a friendly against the Brazilian side Santos in 1972.

"Rale Rasic is always quoted as saying that I was so nervous when he told me that I would man-mark Pele that I was physically sick but that's a bit of a myth," laughs Richards. "Earlier in the morning of the match, while I was being driven to a television station in a noisy Volkswagen, I had a dreadful migraine. That's what made me ill."

"I have certainly played better but I do remember reading a German report where Pele said he when he came up against a mustached Aussie defender playing for Santos that he just wanted to get the match over with. That's a pleasant memory."

That balmy night in Dortmund, when the Socceroos played Chile, was the first international at which Richards appeared for Australia. As if we need reminding, it was also the last time an Australian team appeared in a World Cup finals. Will we get it right 23 years later?

"Australia has the luxury of being able to choose three squads of equal ability," says Richards. "Rale, back in the '70s, was often scratching around for one squad. The current crop of Socceroos are very talented and it's about time Australia qualified for a World Cup."

"I just hope the players at the MCG tonight experience what I did in the first game against East Germany in the '74 World Cup. Standing on the field with the team, listening to the Australian anthem was the be all and end all for me."

Stephen Coppinger

"I just hope the players at the MCG tonight experience what I did in the first game against East Germany in the '74 World Cup."

# So kids. Want to be a Socceroo?

It is the dream of nearly every boy or girl who plays soccer in Australia to one day play in a big game like tonight's match at the MCG. It is hard to imagine what it is like to run onto the ground in front of a big crowd and play in a World Cup game. But like a lot of the young people here tonight, the current crop of Socceroos were kids once, too. And they were no different to anyone else – even someone like Mark Bosnich, who as well as playing in goal for Australia, turns out every week for Aston Villa in the top-notch English Premier League.

"Mark played every sport he could compete in as a youngster," recalls Mark Bosnich Snr, the Socceroo goalie's dad. "When he wasn't pretending to be a star cricket player, he was pretending he was a soccer star at Liverpool!"

Mark was first introduced to soccer when his mum took him along to watch the local matches that his dad played in. It soon became obvious that his passion for soccer outnumbered all other sports.

"As soon as Mark knew he wanted to be a goalkeeper he was always jumping around the house, chatting away to himself like he was commentating during the world's most important match, in which he just pulled off a magnificent save," remembers Mark Snr. " We still have a set of Mark's fingerprints on the ceiling of the lounge room where he jumped up to pull off one his 'saves'."

"Mark was an ambitious boy, always striving to be the best he could be," says Mark Snr. "There was always one thing about Mark that made us proud, and that was he was prepared to work hard to achieve what he wanted."

While Mark's hard work eventually paid off, one thing that he didn't have the benefit of is the number of youth development programs that are leading the way in enhancing the skills and techniques of junior players, including Dairy Farmers Rooball and Snickers SuperSkills.

Have you ever seen one of those matches where it seems like the ball is a magnet, and the kids are made of steel? Or where the players are like a bunch of bees swarming around a hive as they try to get a kick at the ball. One thing you will always notice is how much of a good time the players are having and that's what Rooball is all about – fun.

Launched earlier this year and designed for kids between the ages of seven and ten, the pitches and rules have been modified so kids can play soccer with their mates 'just for fun'. This is often a kid's first introduction to soccer, and it's ideal for children to learn new skills, mix with new peers, but – most importantly – have fun.

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Snickers SuperSkills is another program dedicated to introducing and enhancing soccer skills. It's aimed at slightly older kids. With three different levels, endorsed by current Socceroo Matthew Bingley, former national star and current Brisbane Strikers coach Frank Farina, as well as former Socceroo captain Paul Wade, this program offers participants the extra skills work needed in today's competitive football.

Both of these programs are offered all over Australia in all states and territories. For further information please contact either your local soccer association or your state soccer association.

You never know. In a few years you too could be running out on to the MCG to play for Australia.

And have a lot of fun.

**Jason Crowle**

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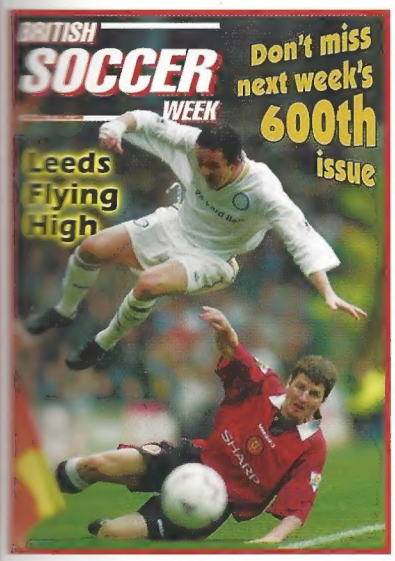


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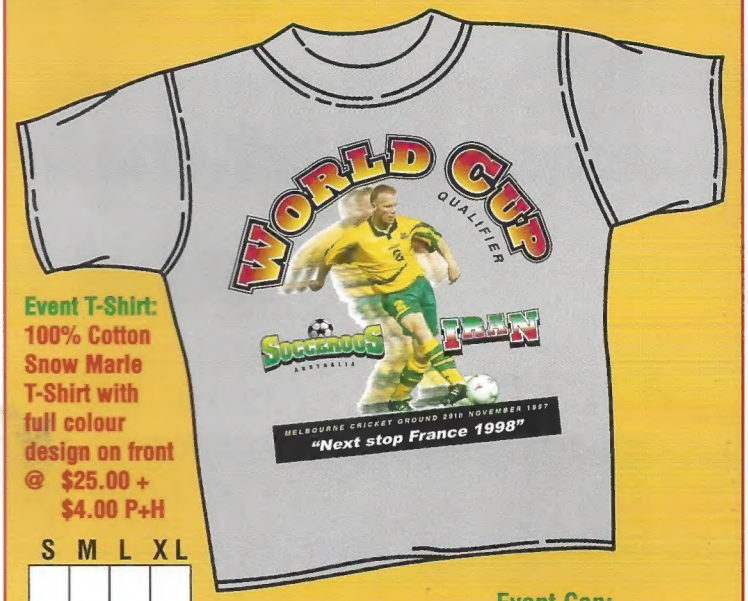


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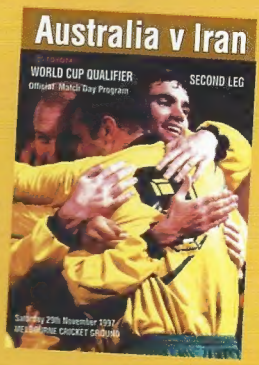


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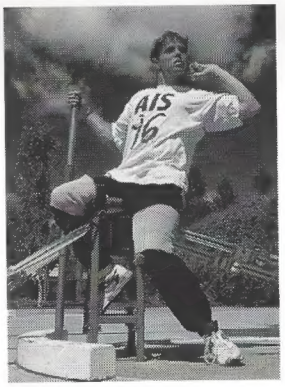


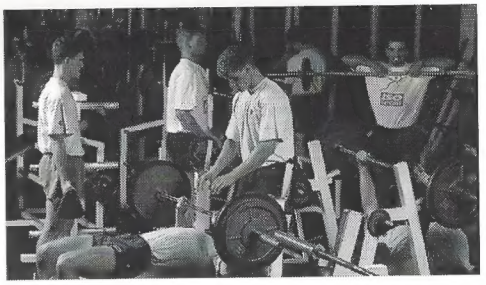

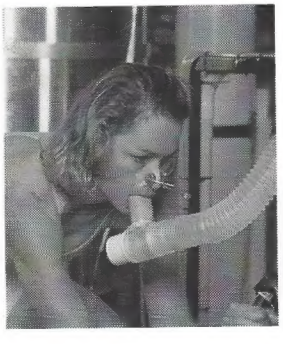

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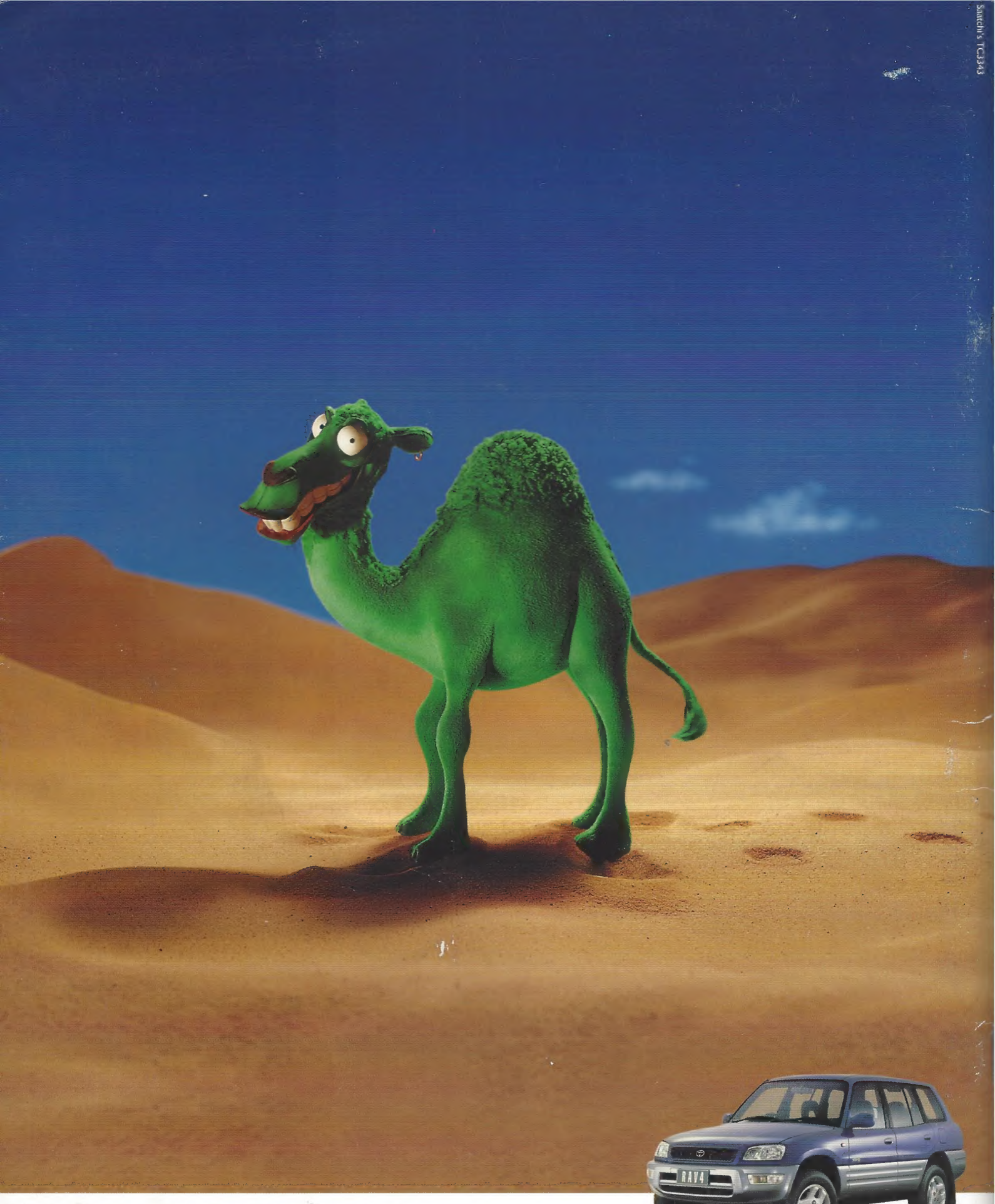

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